

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

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
Shotgun (Unit Activity)	Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting	Eye and hearing protection	NRA Shotgun Instructor AND NRA Range Safety Officer	National Camping School Range Activities Director NRA Shotgun Instructor AND NRA Range Safety Officer	2 people (RSO and at least one instructor)	1:6 for instruction 1:1 when loading and firing	Instructor maintains control of ammunition
NRA FIRST Steps Pistol Orientation Program (Council or District Sponsored Activities Only).	Scouts BSA (14 or 13 and completed 8th grade), Venturing, Sea Scouting	Eye and hearing protection	NRA Pistol Instructor and NRA Range Safety Officer	NRA Pistol Instructor AND NRA Range Safety Officer	2 people (RSO and at least one instructor)	1:6 for instruction 1:1 when loading and firing	Not approved as a unit activity. Instructor maintains control of ammunition.
Muzzleloading Rifle (Scouting America accredited Camp)	Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting	Eye and hearing protection	NRA Co-Op Muzzleloading Rifle Instructor	National Camping School Range Activities Director with current NRA Co-Op muzzleloading rifle instructor certification OR NRA/NMLRA certified muzzleloading instructor	Long-term camp: 1 qualified staff and appropriate assistants. Short-term camp and Day Camp: NCS Range Activities Director with current NRA Co-Op Muzzleloading rifle instructor certification (1 person) OR NRA/NMLRA certified Muzzleloading instructor AND NRA RSO (2 people)	1:8 for instruction 1:1 when loading and firing	
Muzzleloading Rifle (Unit Activity)	Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting	Eye and hearing protection	NRA Co-Op Muzzleloading Rifle Instructor AND NRA RSO (2 people)	National Camping School Range Activities Director with current NRA Co-Op muzzleloading rifle instructor certification OR NRA/NMLRA certified muzzleloading instructor	2 people (RSO and at least one instructor)	1:8 for instruction 1:1 when loading and firing	
Muzzleloading shotgun (Scouting America accredited camp)	Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting	Eye and hearing protection	NRA/NMLRA certified muzzleloading instructor	NRA/NMLRA certified muzzleloading instructor	Long term camp: 1 qualified staff and appropriate assistants Short-term camp and Day Camp: 1 qualified staff and appropriate assistants AND NRA RSO.	1:6 for instruction 1:1 when loading and firing	
Muzzleloading shotgun (unit activity)	Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouting	Eye and hearing protection	NRA/NMLRA certified muzzleloading instructor AND NRA RSO (2 people)	NRA/NMLRA certified muzzleloading instructor	2 people (RSO and at least one instructor)	1:6 for instruction 1:1 when loading and firing	

5 LEVELS OF: SHOTGUN SHOOTING

	Level 1 Shotgun Shooting Experience	Level 2 Shotgun Open Shooting Experience	Level 3 Shotgun Ongoing Shooting Program	Level 4 Competitive Level	Level 5 NRA Assistant Shotgun Instructor
Purpose	There is no Level 1 Shotgun Shooting Experience	Introduce and recruit Scouts into Range and Target Activities	Introduce and recruit Scouts into year-round range and target activities	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
Youth			Scouts BSA, Venturers, Sea Scouts		
Equipment		Youth and adult-size gas operated semi-automatic shotguns are recommended. Recommended gauges are 20 or 12		As required by the competition	Per the course being taught
Ammunition					Correct ammunition 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.
Range					Scouting America camp property approved range, Commercial Range*
Training for Participants		Scouting America 30-minute shotgun briefing	Shotgun Merit Badge (Scouts BSA) OR NRA Basics of shotgun Shooting Course	NRA Basics of Shotgun Shooting Course	NRA shotgun Instructor Course
Targets					clay targets
Course		Single Shell - slow, straight away, and incoming targets.	Following requirements of Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge OR Venturing Ranger Award NRA qualification program	Competitive Rule Book for the competition (Scouting America youth protection policies must also be followed.) Load shells per course of fire (Ex. skeet, where 2 shot shells are loaded)	Following requirements of the NRA shotgun Instructor Course
Safety Equipment					Eye and hearing protection
Instructor		National Camping School Range and Target Activities instructor holding NRA shotgun instructor certification OR an NRA certified shotgun instructor.		National Camping School Range Activities Director holding NRA shotgun instructor certification OR NRA certified shotgun instructor OR NRA certified shotgun coach OR specific competition supervision required	NRA training counselor
Range Supervision		See chart in Chapter 1		Based on the rules of the competition	Based on course being taught
Ratio		1:6 - NRA Range Safety Officer and 1:1 - Instructor (2 separate persons)		Based on the rules of the competition	Based on course being taught
Notes		This event can be a shooting day at the range shoot. NRA Day event or NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program may be introduced. A Scouting America short-term camp could also be appropriate.			

* 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 (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.

- **CO₂ ball discharger.** This tool has a fitting to fit onto the nipple and has a small CO₂ 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.

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.

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.

CO₂ cylinder or tank. A metal cylinder tank that contains carbon dioxide gas (CO₂). Available in small disposable cylinders for insertion in some models of CO₂ 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 CO₂ /air pneumatic gun. A type of air gun using carbon dioxide gas (CO₂) 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 (CO₂). 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 I

NRA FIRST STEPS SHOTGUN INSTRUCTOR'S LESSON PLANS

SCOUTING AMERICA SHOTGUN 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 Shotgun *FIRST Steps* Instructor syllabus and Scouts BSA Merit Badge Instructor Lesson Plans for the Shotgun Merit Badge. **This teaching plan is to be used by registered adult leaders who are currently certified NRA Shotgun Instructors.**

The purpose of this document is to use a proven standard of instructional curriculum to teach the Shotgun Merit Badge. We have combined the NRA *FIRST Steps* Shotgun Instructor Syllabus with the additions from the requirements necessary to teach the Shotgun Merit Badge into one document and both 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 America family.

By using this syllabus, the registered adult leader or parent who is trained as a NRA Shotgun 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. Second, 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 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 Scouting America and the NRA is to have at least 2 NRA Training Counselors in every council in the U.S. 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 Shotgun 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 America notes in various places within the document.

If you have never used the NRA *FIRST Steps* Instructor 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 Shotgun Merit Badge use this syllabus as written. Instead of using the NRA Guide: Basic of Shotgun Shooting 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. 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 have the opportunity to shoot at targets and get a taste of shotgun shooting. Perhaps they may wish to pursue the shotgun merit badge the next time it is available.

The Shotgun Merit Badge may be conducted in an off-season weekend using this syllabus. You 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 shotgun programs such as the NRA marksmanship program, please contact your local council range and target activities committee.

The NRA *FIRST Steps* introduction page 9 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 non-Scouting America Shotgun Merit Badge student. The Scouting America Course Orientation begins on page 13 and outlines the syllabus by camping days and lesson objectives for each day.

Once again, thank you for all you do for our future shooters.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUR MERIT BADGE CLASS

Number of students

- In order to satisfy the Scouts BSA requirements for 50 shots per student in the merit badge class (per merit Badge Requirements) the suggested maximum number of students in class should be **8 Scouts**. This will allow enough time for all students to be successful if you use a 5-day merit badge session with a 1.5 to 2 hr. time block. If you need additional time, then you will need to have students shoot their qualifications during free time on the range.

Number of traps.

- Location and number of traps is based on student ratio and your range layout.
- Have the trap in the center and far enough in front of the shooting line for safety reasons.

Number of guns per student

- Number of guns on the line would depend on the guns available and range layout.

Number of instructors per student

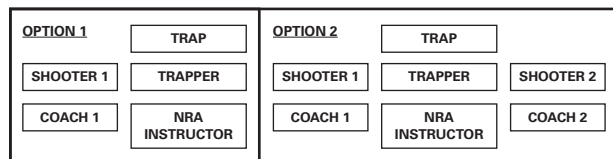
- Consideration should be given to ratios on the range. Scouting America requires a one to one NRA Instructor to student ratio WHILE LOADING AND FIRING.

Definition of “One to One” while Loading and Firing a Shotgun

- There are four ways to accomplish one to one while loading and firing:
 - Have the NRA Instructor load the gun for the shooter
 - Have the NRA Instructor hand the coach the shell and then the coach can load the shooter’s gun
 - Have the NRA Instructor hand the coach the shell and then the coach can hand the shell to the shooter and the shooter can load the gun himself
 - Have the NRA Instructor hand a shell to the shooter and let the shooter load their own gun
 - There is no policy in Scouting America that requires only the NRA Instructor to load the gun

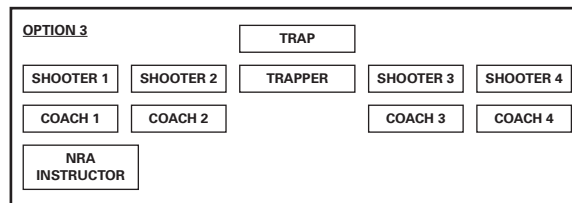
NRA Instructor location

- This depends on the range layout



Option 1 the shooter stands behind and to the left of the trap. The NRA Instructor stands behind the trapper. If you don’t wish to use a trapper to launch the target, then then NRA Instructor may stand behind the trap and next to the shooter.

Option 2 gives the NRA Instructor the ability to be one on one to shooter one and then rotate to be one on one with shooter two. Again, if you don’t use a trapper then the NRA Instructor would stand behind the trap and in between the two shooters.



Option 3 starts the NRA Instructor behind coach one and shooter one. The NRA instructor may only move to shooter two **AFTER SHOOTER ONE FIRES**. Then the NRA Instructor does the same routine with shooter two thru four, always behind whoever has the loaded gun. Remember the NRA Instructor may only have one student at a time loading and firing before the NRA Instructor moves to the next student.

As the shooter who is firing calls for the target the other shooters should either be tracking the target with their finger or, if possible, with an empty shotgun.

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 uses **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 shotgun 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 Shotgun Shooting* handbook.

Policy Notes

FIRST Steps orientations can be conducted by NRA Certified Instructors holding credentials in the discipline. They must 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*, which is 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* Shotgun Participant Packet, and the other items indicated on the "Required NRA Materials" list. The number of participants on an instructor's course report must 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 shotgun 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 shotgun model as recommended by the manufacturer. Instructors who have any questions concerning whether or not the participant's shotgun 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, 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,” “shotguns,” 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
October 2017

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ORIENTATION OUTLINE

NRA *FIRST Steps* Shotgun Orientation

Orientation Goal: To provide beginning shooters with an introduction to the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to own and use a specific shotgun 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 Guide: *Basics of Shotgun Shooting* handbook. Lesson times are noted.

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

Participant Text: NRA Guide: *Basics of Shotgun Shooting* handbook.

Orientation Lessons:

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

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

Lesson III: Introduction to Shotgun Shooting at Straightaway Targets (60 minutes)

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

SCOUTS BSA: Your attached lesson plans will be taught for a minimum of 1.5 hrs. each day for 4 to 5 days for a total of 6 to 8 hrs. Teaching 1 hr. classes will not fit this syllabus. Please see the time adjustments below for covering the Scouting America Merit Badge.

Orientation Lessons:

Lesson I: Introduction to Shotgun Safety, Parts, and Operation

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

Lesson II: Introduction to Ammunition and the Fundamentals of Shotgun Shooting

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

Lesson III: Introduction to Shotgun Shooting at Straightaway Targets

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

Lesson IV: Introduction to Shotgun Cleaning, Storage, and Training Opportunities

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

REQUIRED NRA MATERIALS

NRA *FIRST Steps* Shotgun Orientation

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

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

One per participant:

- NRA *FIRST Steps* Shotgun Participant Packet - contains the following items:
- NRA Guide: *Basics of Shotgun Shooting* handbook
- NRA Gun Safety Rules card
- NRA *FIRST Steps* Shotgun Orientation Completion Certificate
- NRA Basic Training Program brochure
- NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program booklet

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

For reference:

NRA Guide: *Basics of Shotgun Shooting* handbook

OTHER REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

Shotgun

Shotgun owner's manual

Dummy ammunition (must be visually distinguishable from live ammunition)

Empty shotshell box for shotgun model used

Fired shotshell case for model used

Flashlight

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

Hearing protection

Eye protection

Trap

Targets

Shotgun cleaning equipment

Lockable shotgun case

LESSON I. Introduction to Shotgun 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* Shotgun Orientation.
2. Name the three fundamental NRA rules of safe gun handling and demonstrate them with a specific shotgun model.
3. Name the three major components of a shotgun and describe their functions.
4. Safely demonstrate the loading and unloading procedures for a specific shotgun model with dummy ammunition.

LENGTH: 45 minutes

FACILITY: Classroom or Range

- **TRAINING AIDS:** Shotgun, shotgun owner's manual, dummy ammunition, one per participant of the following: NRA Training Course Student Registration Card, NRA Guide: *Basics of Shotgun 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: NRA Guide: *Basics of Shotgun Shooting* handbook.

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

Content	INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES Lesson Time: 10 min. max	
A. Orientation		
1. Registration	1. Instruct participants to fill out an NRA Training Course Student Registration Card	
2. Welcome	2. Introduce self and welcome participants to the orientation	Note: Have Scouts fill out their merit badge card
3. Orientation goal	3. Review 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 shotgun model</u> safely.</i>	
4. Orientation schedule	4. Review 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. Review any special considerations that are unique to the orientation, e.g., transportation arrangements to range facility.	
6. Facilities	6. Point out 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. Check immediately any firearms to be used during the orientation to insure they are unloaded, and have a participant verify this.	

8. No live ammunition in classroom	8. Note 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. Check 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. Check the fit of the shotgun to be used during this orientation relative to the size and strength of the participants. The participant should be able to hold the shotgun securely and comfortably, mount it correctly, and reach and operate the appropriate parts safely and properly.	
10. Basic handbooks	10. Distribute the NRA Guide: <i>Basics of Shotgun Shooting</i> handbooks to participants. Note that the handbook will be used during the orientation, and may be used afterwards as a reference to review the material covered in class.	
	Lesson Time: 5 min. max	
B. Introduce Lesson	State learning objectives for this lesson.(just state 4 objectives from lesson 1 page 1) Do not go into any detail on this)	
	Lesson Time: 20 min. max	
C. Shotgun Safety		
1. The importance of safety	1. Ask participants: What do you think is our primary concern when handling firearms? Discuss 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.	Note: Refer Scouts to pg. 23-24 in MB Book
2. The major causes of gun accidents	2. Ask participants: What do you think are the major causes of gun accidents? Discuss responses briefly. State 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. Distribute the <i>NRA Gun Safety Rules</i> card to participants. Explain 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) Turn with participants to the three rules in the brochure. Have participants read the first rule aloud. Ask: What do you think is meant by a "safe direction"? Discuss responses briefly. Explain 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. Note that controlling the gun's <u>muzzle</u> is the key, and that common sense will dictate the safest direction. Indicate the safe direction(s) in the facility you are using.	

<p>b) <u>ALWAYS</u> keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.</p>	<p>Demonstrate this rule by picking up a shotgun, identifying the muzzle, and noting that you have it pointed in a safe direction.</p> <p>b. Have participants read the second rule aloud. Ask: If your finger is kept off the trigger, where should it be? Discuss responses briefly. Explain that the finger should rest outside the <u>trigger guard</u> or along the side of the gun.</p> <p>Demonstrate this rule by identifying the trigger and trigger guard on the shotgun you are holding, and noting that you are holding the gun with your finger off the trigger, while keeping the gun pointed in a safe direction.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Time: 20 min. max</p>	
<p>C. Shotgun Safety</p>		
<p>1. The importance of safety</p>	<p>1. Ask participants: What do you think is our primary concern when handling firearms? Discuss 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.</p>	<p>Note: Refer Scouts to pg. 23-24 in MB Book</p>
<p>2. The major causes of gun accidents</p>	<p>2. Ask participants: What do you think are the major causes of gun accidents? Discuss responses briefly. State 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).</p>	
<p>3. The fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling</p>	<p>3. Distribute the <i>NRA Gun Safety Rules</i> card to participants. Explain that the NRA has developed three basic rules which should always be applied simultaneously when handling or using a gun.</p>	<p>Step 3 qualifies for teaching req. 2b</p>
<p>a) <u>ALWAYS</u> keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.</p>	<p>a) Turn with participants to the three rules in the brochure. Have participants read the first rule aloud. Ask: What do you think is meant by a "safe direction"? Discuss responses briefly. Explain 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. Note that controlling the gun's <u>muzzle</u> is the key, and that common sense will dictate the safest direction. Indicate the safe direction(s) in the facility you are using.</p> <p>Demonstrate this rule by picking up a shotgun, identifying the muzzle, and noting that you have it pointed in a safe direction.</p>	

<p>b) <u>ALWAYS</u> keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.</p> <p>c) <u>ALWAYS</u> keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.</p>	<p>b. Have participants read the second rule aloud. Ask: If your finger is kept off the trigger, where should it be? Discuss responses briefly. Explain that the finger should rest outside the <u>trigger guard</u> or along the side of the gun.</p> <p>Demonstrate this rule by identifying the trigger and trigger guard on the shotgun you are holding, and noting that you are holding the gun with your finger off the trigger, while keeping the gun pointed in a safe direction.</p> <p>c. Have participants read the third rule aloud. Ask: How do you know whether or not a gun is unloaded? Discuss responses briefly. Explain that you check whether a gun is unloaded by opening the <u>action</u>, and visually inspecting the <u>chamber(s)</u>.</p> <p>Demonstrate this rule by identifying the action, and chamber(s) on the shotgun you are holding, and noting that the action open, and the chamber(s) empty. Have a participant verify that the gun is unloaded.</p>	
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Note: The requirements listed below are not found in the *FIRST Steps Shotgun Lesson Plan*.

Teach these requirements prior to continuing with the *FIRST Steps Shotgun Lesson Plan* to Paragraph D *Safe Shotgun Handling Practical Exercise* listed below.

Scouting requirement 1a

Explain why BB and pellet air guns must always be treated with the same respect as firearms. Refer Scouts to *Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge Book* page 25, “BB and Pellet Air Guns.”

Scouting requirement 2Aj

Selecting a shotgun. Refer Scouts to *Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge Book* page 46-49

Content	INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES	
	Lesson Time: 15 min. max	
<p>D. Safe Shotgun Handling Practical Exercise</p>	<p>D. Note 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>Note 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>Hand the shotgun you are using in this orientation to one participant at a time.</p> <p>Have participants demonstrate the three safety rules while handling the shotgun.</p> <p>Have participants describe each action they perform, i.e., that they are keeping the gun pointed in a safe direction, etc. The shotgun’s action must remain open during this exercise, and must not be manipulated by participants at this time.</p> <p>Have each participant hand the shotgun back to you when they are done.</p> <p>Offer guidance, direction, encouragement, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p>	<p>Note: Refer Scouts to pg. 23 and 24 in MB Book</p> <p>Step D qualifies for teaching req. 2b</p>

<p>E. Shotgun Parts: Major Components</p> <p>1. Stock</p> <p>2. Barrel</p> <p>3. Action</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Time: 5 min. max</p> <p>E. Note that all shotguns consist of three major components: the <u>stock</u>, the <u>barrel</u>, and the <u>action</u>.</p> <p>1. Turn with participants to the definition of the <u>stock</u> in the NRA Guide: <i>Basics of Shotgun Shooting</i> handbook. Have participants read the definition aloud. Point out the stock on the shotgun you are using.</p> <p>2. Turn with participants to the definition of the <u>barrel</u> in the NRA Guide: <i>Basics of Shotgun Shooting</i> handbook. Have participants read the definition aloud. Point out the barrel on the shotgun you are using.</p> <p>3. Turn with participants to the definition of the <u>action</u> in the NRA Guide: <i>Basics of Shotgun Shooting</i> handbook. Have participants read the definition aloud. Point out the action on the shotgun you are using.</p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 23-24 in MB Book</p> <p>Step E qualifies for teaching BSA req. 2a</p> <p>Refer Scouts to pg. 14-16 in MB Book</p> <p>Fills MB Req. 2Aa</p>
<p>F. Shotgun Parts:</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 shotgun</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 shotgun 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 diameter of the bore is designated by the term <u>gauge</u>. The smaller the gauge number, the larger the bore diameter.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Time: 10 min. max</p> <p>1. Review with participants the definition of the <u>stock</u> by asking them to define it.</p> <p>Name the shotgun parts listed at left, point out their location on the <u>stock</u> of the shotgun you are using, and describe briefly the function of each part.</p> <p>Review the parts of the <u>stock</u>. Point to each part, have participants name each one, and have participants describe briefly the function of each part.</p> <p>2. Review with participants the definition of the <u>barrel</u> by asking them to define it.</p> <p>Name the shotgun parts listed at left, point out their location on the <u>barrel</u> of the shotgun you are using and describe briefly the function of each part.</p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 10-14 in MB Book</p>

<p>b. Breech — the rear of the barrel.</p> <p>c. Chamber — the part of the barrel, located at the breech end, which holds the shotshell at the instant of firing.</p> <p>d. Muzzle — the front end of the barrel where the shot pellets exit.</p> <p>e. Choke — a constriction in the bore near the muzzle. The choke influences how the shot pellets will spread after leaving the barrel.</p> <p>f. Bead (s) — mechanism used to help the shooter mount and point the shotgun</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 Shotshell 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>Review the parts of the <u>barrel</u>. Point to each part, have participants name each one, and have participants describe briefly the function of each part.</p> <p>3. Review with participants the definition of the <u>action</u> by asking them to define it.</p> <p>Name the shotgun parts listed at left, point out their location on the <u>action</u> of the shotgun you are using, and describe briefly the function of each part.</p>	
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<p>g. Action release (if applicable) — allows a closed action to be opened</p> <p>G. Shotgun Parts: Review</p> <p>H. Shotgun Operation</p> <p>1. Loading</p> <p>2. Unloading</p>	<p>Review the parts of the <u>action</u>. Point to each part, have participants name each one, and have participants describe briefly the function of each part</p> <p>Skip G with Scouts</p> <p>G. Review <u>all</u> the parts of the <u>stock</u>, <u>barrel</u>, and <u>action</u> listed above. Point to each part, have participants name each one, and have participants describe briefly the function of each part.</p> <p>Lesson Time: 5 min. max</p> <p>H. Explain that, in addition to firing (which will be discussed in Lesson II), there are two basic operations of most rifles: <u>loading</u> and <u>unloading</u>.</p> <p>You will be <u>explaining</u>, <u>demonstrating</u>, and <u>reviewing</u> the operations indicated. Refer to the general operational guidelines in the NRA Guide: <i>Basics of Shotgun Shooting</i> handbook for the type of shotgun you are using in this orientation. These guidelines discuss the indicated procedures in a clear, simple, step-by-step manner.</p> <p>Consult the owner’s manual of your participant’s shotgun to see whether the manufacturer has any particular guidelines for its operation.</p> <p>Do not conduct the orientation unless you are thoroughly familiar with the correct operation of the participant’s shotgun as recommended by the manufacturer.</p> <p><u>Use only dummy ammunition during this practical exercise. Dummy ammunition must be visually distinguishable from live ammunition.</u></p> <p>Be sure to observe, cite, and reinforce the applicable NRA rules of safe gun handling throughout the exercise. Note 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).</p> <p>1. Explain, demonstrate, and discuss the loading procedure of your participant’s shotgun in a clear, simple, step-by-step manner. Then have participants repeat the steps back to you as you repeat the demonstration.</p> <p>2. Explain, demonstrate, and discuss the unloading procedure for your participant’s shotgun in a clear, simple step-by-step manner. Then have participants repeat the steps back to you as you repeat the demonstration.</p>	
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REFERENCES: NRA Guide: *Basics of Shotgun Shooting* handbook.

	Lesson Time: 5 min. max	
A. Introduce Lesson	A. Review the previous lesson briefly. State learning objectives for the current lesson.	
	Lesson Time: 10 min. max	
B. Shotgun Ammunition		
1. Ammunition compatibility	<p>1. Turn with participants to the <i>NRA Gun Safety Rules</i> card. Have them read the paragraph discussing the rule, “Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.”</p> <p>Ask participants: How do you know what type of ammunition should be used for a particular gun? Discuss responses briefly. Explain that most firearms have the ammunition type stamped on the <u>gun</u> itself.</p> <p>Following the NRA gun safety rules, show participants the ammunition designation on the shotgun being used for this orientation.</p> <p>Ask participants: How do you know whether the ammunition you have is the correct type for your gun? Discuss responses briefly. Explain that the ammunition type is identified on the <u>box</u>, and sometimes on the <u>shotshell</u> as well.</p> <p><u>Show</u> participants the ammunition designation on an empty cartridge box, and on a fired shotshell case for the shotgun used for this orientation.</p> <p>Ask participants: What three items should you check to be sure that you are using the correct ammunition for your gun? Review 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>Ask participant(s): What ammunition designations need to be checked? Review that both the <u>gauge</u> and the <u>shotshell length</u> designations need to be checked.</p> <p>Refer to the shotgun’s owner’s manual for the manufacturer’s recommendation concerning the use of “magnum” ammunition and steel shot.</p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 18-20 in MB Book</p> <p>Step B1 qualifies for teaching req. 2c</p>
	Lesson Time: 10 min. max	
2. Ammunition malfunctions	2. Explain to participants that there are three major types of ammunition malfunctions which may occur:	

<p>a. Misfire</p> <p>b. Hangfire</p> <p>c. Squib load</p>	<p>a. A <u>misfire</u> is a failure of the shotshell to fire.</p> <p>b. A <u>hangfire</u> is a perceptible delay in the ignition of a shotshell.</p> <p>c. A <u>squib load</u> is the development of less than normal pressure or velocity after ignition of the shotshell.</p> <p>Explain that, if a shotshell 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 shotgun may be unloaded carefully.</p> <p>Explain 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 wad (the component of the shotshell that holds the shot pellets) failing to exit the barrel. The firing of another shot could cause serious injury or damage.</p> <p>Explain 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 wad 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>Review the definitions of misfire, hangfire, and squib load with participants. Have them explain the correct actions to take if these malfunctions occur.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Time: 10 min. max</p> <p>C. Explain to participants that each individual has a <u>dominant eye</u>: the eye that determines the direction of vision. Note that the dominant eye is used to point the shotgun, so each participant must determine his or her dominant eye before learning the fundamentals of shotgun shooting.</p> <p>Have participants perform the dominant eye exercise as described in the NRA Guide: <i>Basics of Shotgun Shooting</i> handbook. Have participants note which of their eyes is dominant.</p> <p>Note that right-handed participants with a right dominant eye should shoulder the shotgun on the right side. Left-handed participants with a left dominant eye should shoulder the shotgun on the left.</p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 21 in MB Book</p> <p>Step B2 qualifies for teaching req. 2e</p> <p>Refer Scouts to pg. 34-35 in MB Book</p>
<p>C. Determining the Dominant Eye</p>		

	<p>If a participant is <u>cross-dominant</u> (i.e., is right-handed with a left dominant eye, or vice versa) have the participant try shouldering the shotgun 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>Note: 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> <p>Note: Steps D1-D5 should take 8 scouts about 15 minutes. 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 style="text-align: center;">Lesson Time: 55 min. max</p> <p>D. Ask participants: What does the word “fundamental” mean? What does it mean in the context of learning a skill? Discuss responses briefly. Explain that “fundamental” means “basic” or “essential.” “Fundamentals” are the essential elements of performing a skill — in the case of shooting, of firing a shot. They are important for beginners and experienced shooters alike because they must be performed each time a shot is fired.</p>	
<p>D. The Fundamentals of Shotgun Shooting</p>	<p>Name the seven fundamentals of shotgun shooting. Explain, demonstrate, and discuss each of them as follows.</p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 36-40 in MB Book</p>
<p>Note: Use the five step method for beginning shooters in the Merit Badge book rather than the seven step method listed here in Section D.</p> <p>1. Stance</p> <p>a) Stance aligned with target breaking area:</p> <p>b) Feet about shoulder width apart, with toes of lead foot turned slightly outward.</p>	<p>1. Ask participant(s): What do we mean by “stance”? Discuss responses briefly. Explain that <u>stance</u> refers to the position of the body while shooting, and its relationship to the target breaking area.</p> <p>Explain and demonstrate the elements of a proper stance as described at left, and in the NRA Guide: <i>Basics of Shotgun Shooting</i> handbook.</p> <p>Have participant(s) practice a proper stance without a shotgun. Have participants describe what they are doing as they assume the stance.</p>	<p>Step D qualifies for teaching req. 2e</p> <p>Follow steps a and b</p>

<p>c) Knee of the lead leg bent slightly; back leg straight.</p> <p>d) Approximately 60 percent of body weight on lead leg and 40 percent on back leg.</p> <p>e) Stance comfortable and balanced so that it may be maintained before, during, and after the shot.</p> <p>2. Hold point</p> <p>a) Since each shooting situation is different, each will have a different hold point.</p> <p>b) If we know where a target will first appear and in what direction it will be traveling, we can determine a good hold point for that target.</p> <p>c) The shotgun is pointed at the hold point, but the eyes are focused on the area where the target will first appear.</p> <p>3. Mount</p> <p>a) The butt of the shotgun is in the pocket of the shoulder.</p>	<p>Observe participants closely. Offer guidance, direction, encouragement, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p> <p>2. Ask participant(s): When shooting a moving target, where should the gun be pointed <u>before</u> the target appears? Discuss responses briefly. Explain that “hold point” refers to a particular spot in the field of fire that allows for the least amount of correction when shooting a moving target.</p> <p>Discuss the elements of hold point as described at left, and in the NRA Guide: <i>Basics of Shotgun Shooting</i> handbook.</p> <p>Simulate a straightway moving target using a flashlight beam on a wall. Indicate a good hold point for the target’s flight path: slightly ahead of the spot where the target will first appear. Point the index finger of your non-shooting hand at the hold point and operate the flashlight with your shooting hand. Demonstrate that having the gun pointed at that spot before the target appears permits the shooter to acquire the target with the least amount of correction.</p> <p>Have participant(s) practice pointing at the hold point with their non-shooting hands and moving from the hold point to the moving flashlight beam.</p> <p>Observe participant(s) closely. Offer guidance, direction, encouragement, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p> <p>3. Ask participant(s): What do we mean by “mount”? Discuss responses briefly. Explain that the mount is the act of bringing the shotgun into the proper position in preparation for firing the shot.</p> <p>Explain and demonstrate the elements of proper shotgun position as described at left, and in the Shotgun Shooting handbook.</p>	
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<p>b) The head is as far forward on the comb as possible without straining the neck.</p> <p>c) The cheek is pressed firmly against the stock.</p> <p>d) The head is erect and level.</p> <p>4. See the target</p> <p>a) Vision along the sighting plane (barrel, rib, and beads) must be directed forward so that the field of fire in which the target will appear is in focus.</p> <p>b) The target must be seen clearly at the earliest point possible so its direction of flight can be identified.</p> <p>5. Swing</p> <p>a) The swing begins with the shotgun already mounted on the shoulder.</p> <p>b) The swing starts out with the muzzle of the shotgun brought from behind the target and accelerated to the target as the shot is delivered.</p>	<p>Have participant(s) practice mounting an empty shotgun. Have participant(s) describe what they are doing as they mount the shotgun. Block the dominant eye if a cross-dominant participant feels more comfortable using the opposite shoulder.</p> <p>Observe participant(s) closely. Be sure all applicable safety rules are followed.</p> <p>Offer guidance, direction, encouragement, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p> <p>4. Ask participant(s): Where should the visual focus be when shooting a moving target? Discuss responses briefly.</p> <p>Explain that it is vitally important that the target be in clear, sharp focus when shooting it. Note that the shooter's entire concentration must be <u>on the target</u>.</p> <p>Discuss the elements of seeing the target as described at left, and in the NRA Guide: <i>Basics of Shotgun Shooting</i> handbook.</p> <p>Have participant(s) practice focusing on the flashlight beam as they track it with an empty shotgun. Have participant(s) describe where their focus is.</p> <p>Observe participant(s) closely. Be sure all applicable safety rules are followed. Offer guidance, direction, encouragement, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p> <p>5. Ask participant(s): What do we mean by "swing"? Discuss responses briefly. Explain that swing refers to the manner in which the shotgun is moved relative to the target before, during, and after the shot.</p> <p>Note that in this orientation, only a variation of the <u>pass through</u> swing with the shotgun already mounted will be taught. Refer participant(s) to the NRA Guide: <i>Basics of Shotgun Shooting</i> handbook for illustrations.</p> <p>Explain and demonstrate this swing as described at left, and in the shotgun handbook.</p> <p>Have participant(s) practice this swing using an empty gun while you simulate a straightaway target with a flashlight beam. Have participant(s) describe what they are doing as they swing the shotgun.</p>	
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<p>6. Pull the trigger</p> <p>a) The trigger must be pulled the instant the sight picture is correct.</p> <p>b) The sight picture is the visual relationship of the shotgun muzzle to the target.</p> <p>c) When using the pass through swing, the sight picture is correct when the target appears directly above the muzzle of the shotgun.</p> <p>d) When acquiring the sight picture, the focus must be on the target.</p>	<p>Observe participant(s) closely. Be sure all applicable safety rules are followed. Offer guidance, direction, encouragement, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p> <p>6. Ask participant(s): At what point during the swing should the trigger be pulled? Discuss responses briefly. Explain that the trigger must be pulled at the instant the “sight picture” (the relationship of the muzzle to the target) is correct.</p> <p>Explain the elements of pulling the trigger and acquiring proper sight picture as described at left, and in the NRA Guide: <i>Basics of Shotgun Shooting</i> handbook. Note that, when using the pass through swing, the sight picture is correct when the target appears directly above the muzzle of the shotgun.</p> <p>Have participant(s) repeat the previous exercise and have them practice pulling the trigger the instant the sight picture is correct. Have participant(s) describe what they see when they pull the trigger.</p> <p>Observe participant(s) closely. Be sure all applicable safety rules are followed. Offer guidance, direction, encouragement, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p>	
<p>7. Follow-Through</p> <p>a) Follow-through means continuing to do everything that was being done at the time the shot was fired.</p>	<p>7. Ask participant(s): How is <u>follow-through</u> used in sports such as tennis or golf? Discuss responses briefly. Explain that, in golf and tennis, it is the continuation of a motion after the golf club or tennis racket hits the ball. The same principle applies in shotgun shooting.</p> <p>Explain and demonstrate the elements of follow-through as described at left, and in the NRA Guide: <i>Basics of Shotgun Shooting</i> handbook.</p>	

<p>b) The swing must continue if the shot pellets are to hit the target. The trigger is pulled while the shotgun is moving, and the gun must continue to move after the shot is fired.</p> <p>E. Conclude Lesson</p> <p>1. Summary</p> <p>2. Questions</p> <p>3. Preview</p>	<p>Have participant(s) repeat the previous exercise and have them practice proper follow-through by continuing to track the flashlight beam after pulling the trigger. Have participants describe what they are doing after the trigger is pulled and why.</p> <p>Observe participant(s) closely. Be sure all applicable safety rules are followed.</p> <p>Offer guidance, direction, encouragement, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Time: 5 min. max</p> <p>1. Ask participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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? What are the three major types of cartridge malfunctions? What should you do if they occur? Which of your eyes is dominant? What is the dominant eye used for in shooting? What are the seven fundamentals of shotgun shooting? Where must the visual focus be at all times when shooting a moving target? <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 III. Introduction to Shotgun Shooting at Straightaway Targets

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 term “pull,” the loading and clearing procedures followed at a shooting station, 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 shotgun.
3. Safely shoot straightaway targets using the fundamentals of shotgun shooting.

LENGTH: 60 minutes

FACILITY: Range

TRAINING AIDS: Shotgun, shotgun owner's manual, quality factory ammunition, hearing and eye protection, trap, targets, NRA Guide: *Basics of Shotgun Shooting* handbook, NRA *Gun Safety Rules* brochure.

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

Content	INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES	
A. Introduce Lesson B. Range Safety and Shooting Facility Orientation 1. Range layout 2. Range personnel 3. Range procedures a. "Loading and clearing" b. "Pull" c. "Range Commands" d. Problem with firearm e. Dropped ammunition	<div data-bbox="829 306 1174 352" data-label="Text"> <p>Lesson Time: 5 min. max</p> </div> <p>A. Review the previous lesson briefly. State learning objectives for the current lesson.</p>	
	<div data-bbox="829 474 1174 520" data-label="Text"> <p>Lesson Time: 10 min. max</p> </div> <p>1. Point out to participants the layout of the range (e.g., shooting stations, preparation area, etc.) Explain the activities that are permitted in each area.</p> <p>2. Introduce participants to the range personnel, e.g., the chief range safety officer, other range safety officers, etc., and describe their functions.</p> <p>3. Explain the procedures to be used on the shotgun range:</p> <p>a. Explain that participant(s) may load their shotguns only upon direction of the instructor. Emphasize that once the shotgun is loaded, the participant should not turn from or leave the shooting station until after the gun has been fired or unloaded, the finger removed from the trigger, and the action opened. The gun must be pointed in a safe direction at all times.</p> <p>b. Explain the term, "Pull," used by the shooter to call for the target.</p> <p>c. Explain that all commands of the range officer must be followed immediately. Anyone observing an unsafe condition on the range should bring it to the immediate attention of the range officer and other shooters by calling out "cease fire."</p> <p>d. Explain that a shooter who has any type of problem with the shotgun must take the index finger off the trigger, keep the gun pointed in a safe direction, and raise his or her hand for assistance.</p> <p>e. Remind 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).</p>	

<p>4. Range rules</p> <p>C. Rules for Safe Shooting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of the three fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling. 2. NRA rules for using and storing a gun. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Know your target and what is beyond. b. Know how to use the gun safely. c. Be sure the gun is safe to operate. d. Use only the correct ammunition for your gun. e. Wear hearing and eye protection as appropriate. f. Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting. g. Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons. h. Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting situations require additional safety precautions. <p>D. Preparation for Shooting Exercises</p>	<p>Review by asking participant(s): When does one load the shotgun? What does “Pull” mean? What should you do if you observe an unsafe situation on the range? What procedure should be followed by a shooter who is experiencing a problem with a shotgun? What should you do if you accidentally drop ammunition?</p> <p>4. Explain and discuss the range rules for the range you are using.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Time: 10 min. max</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the three fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling by asking participants to name them. 2. Turn with participants to the rules for using and storing guns in the NRA Gun Safety Rules 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. <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Time: 10 min. max</p> <p>D. Prior to the range session, inspect the participant’s shotgun for overall appearance, fit of parts, function, and operation. If it is a new-in-the-box shotgun, it should be cleaned before shooting. If there is any question concerning whether or not the shotgun is safe to shoot, have it checked by a reputable gunsmith before using it in the orientation.</p>	
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<p>Note to merit badge counselor:</p> <p>The paragraph to the right is if you were doing a NRA First Steps class.</p> <p>When doing a Merit Badge class, please refer to the diagrams and notes that are listed under “Consideration for your Merit Badge class” on page 8 of this manual.</p> <p>For live-fire we use the Scouting America standard of one instructor to one student while loading and firing.</p> <p>E. Shooting Straightaway Targets</p> <p>1. Watch straightaway targets</p>	<p>Inspect the ammunition to be used during the shooting exercises to be sure it is clean, free of obvious defects, and compatible with the gun. Keep the ammunition under your control. If there is any question concerning whether or not the ammunition is safe to use in the participant’s shotgun, check with a reputable gunsmith before using it in the orientation.</p> <p>Be sure that you and all participant(s) are wearing hearing and eye protection before entering the range. Prepare the shooting range with the necessary equipment: a trap, targets, and the shotgun. Use light target loads with small shot to minimize recoil and maximize the amount of shot in the air. Have a copy of the NRA Guide: <i>Basics of Shotgun Shooting</i> handbook and the owner’s manual for your participant’s shotgun handy for reference.</p> <p>Set the trap to throw straightaway targets. On a trap range, have shooter stand directly behind trap house. On a skeet range, have shooter stand at station seven.</p> <p>In the case of multiple participants, there should be one NRA instructor at the shooting station, one shotgun at the shooting station, and no more than two participants at the shooting station.</p> <p>Be sure to increase range time proportionately if you are instructing two participants</p> <p>Use the “coach/pupil” method with multiple participants: while one participant (the “pupil”) shoots, involve 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> <p>Lesson Time: 45 min. max</p> <p>E. Instruct participants using the NRA six-step method for teaching beginning shotgun shooters.</p> <p>At each step, observe participant closely. Be sure all applicable safety rules are followed. Offer guidance, direction, and positive feedback as appropriate.</p> <p>1. Have participant(s) handle a target. Show them how easily it breaks. Have participant(s) watch several targets in flight so they can get a feel for their direction and speed.</p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 41-44</p> <p>Step E qualifies for teaching req. 2g</p>
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<p>6. Shoot at target with live ammunition</p>	<p>Observe, offer feedback, and involve the other participant as before.</p> <p>After the participant has demonstrated reasonable skill and confidence in dry firing the shotgun, move on to the next step.</p> <p>6. Supply participant with one round of ammunition at a time. Direct participant to load. When the participant is ready, direct him or her to call for the target and shoot. Then instruct participant to open the action of the shotgun. Have participant fire several shots.</p> <p>Observe participant closely. Watch the gun, the shooter, and the result of the shot. Be sure all applicable safety rules are followed. Offer guidance, direction, and positive feedback as appropriate. Involve 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> <p>Have participant fire additional shots as time permits. Use the ball-and-dummy technique if necessary to help participant concentrate on technique.</p> <p>Have participant(s) reverse roles and repeat the dry point, dry fire, and live fire exercises.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Time: 5 min. max</p> <p>F. Review of Shooting Practice</p> <p>F. Ask participants what they learned from the day’s shooting practice.</p> <p>Discuss responses briefly. Supplement their comments with positive feedback as appropriate.</p>	
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Note: The list below uses the Shotgun Merit Badge Book page 5 to cover requirements 2k. These requirements are not found in the NRA *FIRST Steps* Lesson Plans.

Requirement 2k.

Shooting score required-Hit at least 12 out of 25 targets (48 percent) in two 25 target groups. The two groups need not be shot in consecutive order. **Shooters must shoot a minimum of 50 shots. This is a merit badge requirement.**

<p>G. Conclude Lesson</p> <p>1. Summary</p> <p>2. Questions</p> <p>3. Preview</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Time: 5 min. max</p> <p>1. Ask participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What are the three basic range commands? What do they mean? b. What are the eight NRA safety rules for using and storing a gun? c. What have you learned from your practice of the fundamentals of shotgun shooting? <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 Shotgun 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 shotgun.
2. Outline the three safety guidelines to be followed when cleaning a shotgun.
3. Explain and demonstrate how to clean a shotgun safely.
4. Name the NRA rule for safe firearm storage, and discuss options for applying this rule when storing a shotgun.
5. Discuss the three hygienic guidelines following exposure to airborne particulate lead and cleaning solvent residue.
6. Discuss the benefits of receiving additional shotgun training through the NRA Basic Firearm Training Program.

LENGTH: 30 minutes

FACILITY: Classroom or Range

TRAINING AIDS: Shotgun, shotgun owner's manual, shotgun cleaning equipment, lockable shotgun case, NRA Guide: *Basics of Shotgun Shooting* handbook, *NRA Gun Safety Rules* card, one per participant of the following: *NRA Basic Firearm Training Program* brochure, and *NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program* booklet.

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

Content	INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES	
	Lesson Time: 5 min. max	
A. Introduce Lesson	A. Review the previous lesson briefly. State learning objectives for the current lesson.	
	Lesson Time: 30 min. max	
B. Cleaning a Shotgun		
1. Importance of cleaning	1. Turn with participants to the NRA Gun Safety Rules card. Have participants review the rule, "Be sure the gun is safe to operate" and the paragraph that follows. Discuss the importance of regular cleaning and proper storage as part of a gun's general upkeep as stated in the brochure. Note that a gun should be cleaned after every shooting session.	Refer Scouts to pg. 28-31 in MB Book
2. Materials	2. Display the materials necessary to clean a shotgun. Identify each of the items listed at left, and explain their use in cleaning a shotgun.	Step B qualifies for teaching req. 2i
a. Cleaning rod and attachments (tips and bore brush)	Have participants note manufacturers' guidelines for the use of gun cleaning products.	
b. Cloth patches		
c. Bore cleaning solvent		
d. Gun oil		
e. Clean cloth		
f. Small brush		

<p>3. Safety guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ammunition must not be present in the area b. The gun must be unloaded c. The action must be open <p>4. Practical exercise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Attach brush to cleaning rod and apply bore cleaner to brush. b. Run patch or brush through bore 8-10 times. c. Run wet patch through bore. d. Run dry patch through bore. e. If dry patch dirty, repeat first four steps until dry patch comes out clean. f. Run lightly oiled patch through bore. g. Use small brush and solvent to clean other parts of gun. h. Wipe shotgun with lightly oiled cloth. 	<p>3. Ask participants: Based on our discussions of gun safety, what are some of the safety guidelines you think should be followed when cleaning a shotgun? Discuss responses briefly. State that, when cleaning a shotgun, the guidelines listed at left <u>must</u> be followed.</p> <p>4. Conduct a cleaning practical exercise by having participants clean the shotgun under your direction. Be sure no ammunition is present in the area during the cleaning exercise.</p> <p>Follow the cleaning guidelines outlined in the NRA Guide: <i>Basics of Shotgun Shooting</i> handbook. (The guidelines are summarized briefly at left.) Note that the shotgun bore should be cleaned from the breech end whenever possible.</p> <p>Inform participants that some shotguns need to be partially disassembled prior to cleaning. Have participants consult the shotgun's owner's manual for disassembly/reassembly directions and for any specific recommendations the manufacturer may have regarding cleaning.</p>	
<p>C. Hygienic guidelines following exposure to airborne particulate lead or cleaning solvent residue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Time: 15 min. max</p> <p>Ask participants: What hygienic practices should be followed during and after a shooting or gun cleaning session? Discuss responses briefly.</p> <p>Explain the three hygienic guidelines at left. Note 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. 32 in MB Book</p> <p>Step 4 qualifies for teaching req. 1h</p>

<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>		
<p>D. Storing a Shotgun</p> <p>1. NRA rule for safe firearm storage</p> <p>2. Options for safe shotgun storage</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Time: 20 min. max</p> <p>1. Turn with participants to the <i>NRA Gun Safety Rules</i> card. Have participants review the rule, “Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons” and the paragraph that follows. Note 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.</p> <p>2. Discuss some of the options available for shotgun storage, such as gun cases, cabinets, safes, etc. Show participants a lockable shotgun case as an example of a storage device.</p> <p>Note that ammunition should generally be stored separately from guns, and should likewise be stored so that it is inaccessible to unauthorized persons. Note also that there may be state or local laws governing the storage of guns and ammunition.</p>	<p>Refer Scouts to pg. 28 and pg. 32-33 in MB Book</p> <p>Step D-1 qualifies for teaching Req. 1B</p>
<p>E. The “Next Step”: Additional Shotgun Shooting Activities</p> <p>1. The NRA Basic Firearm Training Program</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lesson Time: 15 min. max</p> <p>1. Discuss the advantages of receiving additional shotgun training in an NRA Basic Shotgun Shooting Course. Provide participants with a schedule of upcoming NRA Basic Course in the area, and encourage them to attend.</p>	

2. Additional NRA training opportunities	2. Inform participants that the NRA has developed additional shotgun training opportunities, including advanced marksmanship clinics for competitive shooters. Note that the NRA also has special programs available for young shooters, such as the NRA National Junior Rifle Camp.	
3. The National Rifle Association	3. Distribute copies of NRA membership applications. Discuss the advantages of NRA membership and review several programs available to the shooters from the NRA, and invite them to join.	
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.	4. Distribute <i>NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program</i> booklets. Briefly describe rifle programs.	

Note: Instead of teaching Lesson E above, teach merit badge requirements 1d thru 1f and 1g and 1i of the Shotgun 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 Shotgun Shooting merit badge book pages 81-82, "Conservation, Recreation, and more".

Requirement 1f

Successfully complete a state hunter education course, or obtain a copy of the hunting laws for your state then do the following:

1. Explain the main points of hunting laws in your state and give any special laws on the use of guns and ammunition. Reference Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge book pages 82-83.
2. List the kinds of wildlife that can be legally hunted in your state. Refer to your state's hunting regulations handbook.

Note: If a youth chooses to participate in a hunter education course, this merit badge training will take longer than the six to seven hours as stated.

Requirement 1g

Identify and explain three shotgun sports. Identify places in your community where you could shoot these sports and explain how you can join or be a part of shooting sports activities.

Reference Shotgun Shooting merit badge book pages 51-59, "Clay Target Sports".

Requirement 1i

Give your counselor a list of sources that you could contact for information on firearms and their uses. Reference Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge book pages 94-95, "Shotgun 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 Marksmanship Qualification program awards. You can download the awards book from the internet.

F. Conclude Lesson 1. Summary 2. Questions	1. Ask participant(s): a. What are the materials needed to clean a shotgun? b. What three safety guidelines must be followed when cleaning a shotgun? c. What did you learn from the shotgun cleaning practical exercise? d. What three hygienic guidelines should be followed after exposure to airborne particulate lead or cleaning solvent residue? e. What is the NRA rule for safe storage of a gun? f. What additional shotgun training opportunities are available from the National Rifle Association? 2. Ask participant(s) what questions they have about this lesson. Answer questions.	
G. Orientation Review	G. Ask participant(s) what questions they have about anything that was covered during the orientation. Answer questions.	
H. Orientation Certificates <div>Since this is a merit badge class you will not have NRA certificates. Skip H and do I</div>	H. Distribute completed NRA <i>FIRST Steps</i> Shotgun Orientation Certificates to qualified participant(s). Congratulate them on their accomplishments, and invite them to attend your next NRA Basic Shooting Course.	
I. Thank You	I. Thank participant(s) 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.
- 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.

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 15 - INSTRUCTIONAL SHOTGUN 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 BSA Policies are followed under NRA Certified Shotgun Instructor and Range Safety Officer (RSO). In this publication, you will find youth requirements, training requirements for adults who are facilitating a Shotgun instruction program for youth. The program offers a fun and safe introduction to safe handling of a shotgun.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Youth Requirements

Registered Scouts BSA members, Venturers or Sea Scouts and youth who are age appropriate participating in a Shotgun 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 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 from the NRA as a Instructor
3. RSO must have current certification from the NRA as a 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: To develop in youth the Knowledge, Skill and Attitude (KSA) of safe handling of a Shotgun by participation in a formal Shotgun shooting curriculum.

Examples: Examples of ongoing programs are the Scouts BSA Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge, and Venturing Ranger Award. Shooting programs could be held at a Scouting America range at an accredited camp or a commercial range.

Youth: Scouts BSA members, Venturers, Sea Scouts

Shotgun: Youth- and adult-size 12 or 20 gauge gas-operated semi-automatic shotguns.

Ammunition: Correct ammunition for the shotgun being fired. Light loads of shot size #7½ or smaller is recommended. **Reloaded ammunition is not approved for BSA programs.**

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

Training for Scouts BSA members: NRA FIRST Steps Shotgun Orientation (3 hrs.) or NRA Basic Shotgun Shooting Course (8 hrs.), taught by a certified NRA Shotgun Instructor. The Scouts BSA Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge

Training for Sea Scouts and Venturers: Shotgun Safety Briefing in this document.

Training References: Scouts BSA Shotgun Merit Badge Pamphlet; Download Ranger Award Requirements

Safety: ANSI Z87.1-2010 certified eye protection and 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 Shotgun Instructor. These must be two separate individuals.

Ratio: One NRA Range Safety Officer must be present for each group consisting of a maximum of six shooters. One NRA certified Shotgun Instructor for each active shooter is required when loading and firing a shotgun.

Course: Begin with slow, single, straight away and incoming targets. An example would be a single trap with one shell loaded at a time. As skill and confidence improve, provide more challenging target .

- Command: "Eye and ear protection on."
- Command: "Move forward to your shooting position."
- Command: "Practice mounting and following a target with the gun."
- Command: "Load and prepare to fire."
- Command: "Is the trapper ready?"
- Command: "Call "Pull" when shooter is ready."

Continue until shooter has completed the course of fire.

- Command: "Cease fire."
- Command: "Range is clear."
- Command: "You may exit the shooting area."
- Command: "Remove eye and ear protection."

BEFORE YOUTH ARRIVE AT THE PROGRAM AREA

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

ON THE RANGE

- Eye and ear protection should be cleaned between each shooter.
- Range staff will assist the RSO and Instructor by loading the trap, preparing shotguns, 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 dba 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
- ____ Shotgun racks available
- ____ Empty trash receptacles available
- ____ Lockable storage
- ____ Throwers available and loaded
- ____ Eye and ear protection available
- ____ Hand washing Station Available

Range Safety Briefing – Shotgun

- No Ammunition in the classroom!
- To provide shooters with Knowledge, Skill and Attitude (KSA) necessary to shoot a shotgun 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 shotgun
- Demonstrate shotgun operation
 - Loading dummy rounds
 - Cocking
 - Dry Fire
 - Unloading
- Shooting Fundamentals
 - Determine Eye Dominance
 - Stance
 - Hold Point
 - Mount
 - See the target
 - Swing
 - Pull the trigger
 - Follow through
 - The most important - Focus on the target
- 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
 - Command: “Eye and ear protection on.”
 - Command: “Move forward to your shooting position.”
 - Command: “Practice mounting and following a target with the gun.”
 - Command: “Load and prepare to fire when it is your turn. Begin shooting from the left.”
 - Command: “Is the trapper ready?”
 - Command: “Call “Pull” when shooter is ready.”

Continue until shooter has completed the course of fire.

- Command: “Cease fire.”
- Command: “Range is clear.”
- Command: “You may exit the shooting area.”
- Command: “Remove eye and ear protection.”

Before running a program check out the Shooting Sports Webpage for updates to this program guide and find other resources.

For questions or additional information, contact the National Service Center at outdoorprogram@scouting.org.



APPENDIX 16 - OPEN SHOTGUN 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 Shotgun 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 shotgun.

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 Shotgun Shooting activity conducted as part of a recruiting 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 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 from the NRA as a Instructor
3. RSO must have current certification from the NRA as a 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.



SHOTGUN OPEN SHOOTING EXPERIENCE

Purpose: To provide shooters with Knowledge, Skill and Attitude (KSA) necessary to shoot a shotgun safely under supervision of a certified instructor.

Examples: Unit, District, or Council organized program which could include; a day-at-the-range event (fun shoot), recruiting new members, Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program, camporee, camp weekend shoot, or Order of the Arrow event are examples.

Youth: Scouts BSA members, Venturers, Sea Scouts

Shotgun: Youth & adult-size 12 or 20 gauge shotguns.

Ammunition: Correct ammunition for the shotgun being fired. Light loads of shot size #7 or smaller is recommended. **Reloaded ammunition is not approved for BSA programs.**

Training: The Scouting America Safety Shotgun Briefing presented by an NRA Range Safety Officer. The Range Safety Rules are posted and reviewed during the briefing.

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

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

Ratio: One NRA Range Safety Officer must be present for each group consisting of a maximum of six shooters. One NRA certified Shotgun Instructor is required for each active shooter. At the discretion of the instructor, loading may be completed by the student or the instructor.

There is not a policy in the Scouting America that requires the NRA Instructor to load the firearm.

Below are examples of range commands assuming 1 inexperienced shooter with 1 instructor, using a single trap with a single presentation of target. The actual commands to use should be based on the course of fire, the circumstances and the number of shooting positions.

Range Commands

- Command: "Eye and ear protection on."
- Command: "Move forward to your shooting position."
- Command: "Practice mounting and following a target with the gun."
- Command: "Load and prepare to fire."
- Command: "Is the trapper ready?"
- Command: "Call "Pull" when shooter is ready."

Continue until shooter has completed the course of fire.

- Command: "Cease fire."
- Command: "Range is clear."
- Command: "You may exit the shooting area."
- Command: "Remove eye and ear protection."

BEFORE THE YOUTH ARE ON THE RANGE

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

ON THE RANGE

- Eye and ear protection should be cleaned between each shooter.
- Range staff will assist the RSO and Instructor by loading the trap, preparing shotguns, 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 dba 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

____ Shotgun racks available

____ Empty trash receptacles available

____ Lockable storage

____ Throwers available and loaded

____ Eye and ear protection available

____ Hand washing Station Available

Range Safety Briefing – Shotgun

- No Ammunition in the classroom!
- To provide shooters with Knowledge, Skill and Attitude (KSA) necessary to shoot a shotgun safely under supervision of a certified instructor.
- 3 Rules of Gun Safety
 - Always keep your gun pointed in a safe direction
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 - Unloading
- Shooting Fundamentals
 - Determine Eye Dominance
 - Stance
 - Hold Point
 - Mount
 - See the target
 - Swing
 - Pull the trigger
 - Follow through
 - The most important - Focus on the target
- 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
 - Command: “Eye and ear protection on.”
 - Command: “Move forward to your shooting position.”
 - Command: “Practice mounting and following a target with the gun.”
 - Command: “Load and prepare to fire.”
 - Command: “Is the trapper ready?”
 - Command: “Call “Pull” when shooter is ready.”

Continue until shooter has completed the course of fire.

- Command: “Cease fire.”
- Command: “Range is clear.”
- Command: “You may exit the shooting area.”
- Command: “Remove eye and ear protection.”

Before running a program check out the Shooting Sports 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