



**So, you want to hold a shooting sports
activity in your Troop, Team, Crew, Ship,
Post or District?**

NCAC Shooting Sports Committee

October 2020

So, you want to hold a shooting sports activity in your Troop, Team, Crew, Ship, Post or District? Here is how to do it safely and within BSA guidelines.

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1. BSA Policy: All shooting activities must be done in accordance with the BSA safety regulations. These are defined by the following documents:

a. The **Guide to Safe Scouting**, No. 34416A which may be downloaded from the National BSA website safety page <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34416.pdf>. You should download the latest version each year. Current version as of this update is the 2019 Printing.

The Boy Scouts of America's general liability policy provides coverage for a bodily injury or property damage claim that is made and arises out of an official Scouting activity. The Guide to Safe Scouting contains a listing of unauthorized and restricted activities. Unauthorized activities are not considered official Scouting activities.

Volunteers (registered and unregistered), units, chartered organizations, and local councils are jeopardizing insurance coverage and may incur legal liability for themselves and their organization by engaging in unauthorized activities.

Please do not put yourself at risk.

b. **Current BSA Shooting Sports Guidelines**

@<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/shooting-sports/>

c. **Boy Scouts of America National Shooting Sports Manual**, No. 430-938. This is available from the National BSA website shooting sports page https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/pdf/30931_WB.pdf You should download the manual and any supplement updates. As of December 2016, the current manual is dated 2015 and there is a 2016 supplement.

d. **Cub Scouts Shooting Sports Guide**, No. 510-322. This document may be downloaded from the National BSA shooting sports page <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/shooting-sports/cub-scout-shooting-sports/>.

The following shooting activities are currently banned in all BSA programs:

- Flint Lock Rifles and Pistols

- Reloading and using reloaded ammunition
- Crossbows
- Bottle rockets
- Exploding targets
- Firearms included in the National Firearms Act (Class III)
- Cannons
- Ballistas
- Boomerangs
- Blow Guns
- Anvil Shooting
- Ninja weapons (stars, spikes, torpedoes, nunchucks, etc.)
- Spears
- Spear Guns
- Potato Guns

For Cub Scouts, Archery, BB gun shooting, and slingshot shooting are restricted to day camps, Cub Scout/Webelos Scout long term camps, council-managed short-term camps and family camping programs, or council activities where there are properly trained supervisors and where all standards for BSA shooting sports are enforced. All shooting ranges in the Cub Scout program must be supervised by a qualified range master who is at least 18 years of age and meets the minimum requirements.

2. What shooting Sports Activities can the youth members of my unit participate in? The following chart defines who can shoot what in the BSA program. (shooting sports excerpt below)

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-685.pdf>

AGE-APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES FOR SCOUTING ACTIVITIES

Age- and rank-appropriate guidelines have been developed based on many factors. When planning activities outside of program materials or handbooks, ask this question: Is the activity appropriate for the age and for Scouting? Not every activity needs to be conducted.



LIONS
(WITH ADULT PARTNER)



TIGERS
(WITH ADULT PARTNER)



WOLF/BEAR
SCOUTS



WEBELOS
SCOUTS



SCOUTS BSA



OLDER SCOUTS BSA,
SEA SCOUTS,
VENTURERS
(*Older Scouts BSA* are age 13 and have completed eighth grade or 14 years old and up.)



SHOOTING

(See shooting sports guides at www.scouting.org. Note: Shooting at each other is prohibited.)

Centerfire/Large-Bore Rifles						Venturers and Sea Scouts
Pistols						Venturers and Sea Scouts
Pistol Safety and Marksmanship Programs						Council-Run Program
Specialty Programs—Cowboy Action Shooting						✓
.22 Rifle					✓	✓
Archery—Field					✓	✓
Muzzleloaders					✓	✓
Shotguns					✓	✓
Specialty Programs—Airsoft					✓	✓
Specialty Programs—Chalkball					✓	✓
Air Rifle (pellet guns)				Webelos Resident Camp Only	✓	✓
BB Guns				Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	✓	✓
Archery—Target, Action (moving targets)				Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	✓	✓
Slingshots/Wrist Rockets				Council/District Outdoor Programs Only	✓	✓
Catapults/Trebuchets				Projectiles must be soft and small (no larger than a tennis ball).		

680-685
2019 Printing
Rev. 11/19

Notes:

- Youth in the Lion program are approved to participate in district or council run archery and slingshot activities only.** (See Cub Scouts Shooting Sports Guide}
- All Cub Scout Shooting Sports activities must be done in Council resident camp or district sponsored activities.** Archery, BB gun shooting, and slingshot shooting are not approved unit activities. District & Council Shooting Sports Committee approval & support required.
- Airsoft guns are not approved for use in the Cub Scout shooting sports program.
- Venturers, Sea Scouts and Explorers** may shoot semi-automatic and centerfire firearms (rifles including high power, and pistols) in accordance with Federal and local law with signed permission from parents or guardians. In addition, members of these units may participate in hunting activities provided they complete appropriate Hunter Safety Course and comply with Federal and State hunting laws.
- Learning for Life – Explorers** also operate a national law enforcement Explorer pistol competition. See Safety First Learning for Life Guidelines which may be downloaded from http://www.exploring.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/LFL-safety-first-guidelines_final-copy_-28229.pdf

3. Where can my unit or district conduct Shooting Sports Activities?

Typical locations for shooting sports activities are Boy Scout or 4H camp ranges, private gun or archery clubs, private association ranges (such as Isaac Walton League),

government ranges or private property. The NCAC Shooting Sports Committee maintains a list of shooting ranges, and their locations and contact points, within the boundaries of the council and nearby States. This document ***Where to Shoot – NCAC BSA*** may be downloaded from the shooting sports page on the council website at <https://www.ncacbsa.org/shooting-sports-3/>.

Shooting on Private Property. If your **unit** or **district** plans to shoot on property that is not on BSA or does not have an established shooting range you must receive prior permission to use the property from the council shooting sports committee. To do so, fill out form ***430-065 Private Property Approval for Shooting Sports*** and request, to have the property inspection by a NRA Chief RSO from shooting sports committee. The email contact point and the 430-065 form may downloaded here:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/Shooting%20Sports/430-065_WB.pdf.

Form 430-065 will require the following information be gathered prior to submitting the form for range inspection and approval:

- Signed permission from the property owner to use property and have it inspected
- Description of shooting sport activity
- Drawing showing range layout and safety features
- Copy of range rules to be used during your activity
- Names and certificate numbers for personnel performing range safety and instruction during the activity (NRA or USA Archery). Submitting a copy of their certificate is preferable.

The range, in the configuration you will use during the shooting activity, will then be physically inspected by the Chief RSO prior to use for your activity.

To facilitate the gathering and submittal of this information you may use the ***NCAC Shooting Sports Request for Specific Event*** form and submit it to the NCAC Shooting Sports Committee for support.

4. What personnel does my unit or district need to operate a shooting sports activity?

For district activities involving Cub Scouts BB Gun ranges must be operated by one or more currently certified BB Range Masters (or a currently certified NRA Rifle Instructor). Similarly, a Cub Scout Archery range must be operated by one or more currently certified Archery Range Masters (or currently certified USA Archery Level 1 or higher Instructor). You should verify the certification expiration date and for all instructors. The NCAC Shooting Sports Committee maintains a list of currently certified instructors.

Cub Scout Packs and Dens are not authorized to operate unit shooting sports activities. In no case, may they hold any firearm activities. (See Cub Scouts Shooting Sports Guide).

Council and District shooting sports summer camp and day camp activities are operated in accordance with the BSA National Shooting Sports Manual and the BSA National Camp Accreditation Program (See National Camp Accreditation Program, No. 430-056 [http://www.scouting.org/filestore/outdoor%20program/pdf/430-056\(15\)_WEB.pdf](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/outdoor%20program/pdf/430-056(15)_WEB.pdf)). These activities require trained National Camping School Shooting Sports Directors.

Boy Scouts of America Shooting Sports Range Personnel Requirements

The basic personnel requirement for staffing the range are indicated in the following table:

Shooting Sport ⁴	Cub Scouts			Boy Scouts/Varsity/Venturing				Venturing
	BB	PG	Archery	Rifle ²	Shotgun	Muzzle Loading	Archery	Pistol ³
Range Personnel Requirement	RM	RM	RM	SSD/NRA	SSD/NRA	SSD/NMLRA	SSD/USA	SSD/NRA
Certified By	Trained by SSD			All Ranges require a NRA certified RSO ¹ SSD - NCS SSD COURSE CERTIFICATION NRA - NRA DISCIPLINE BASIC INSTRUCTOR NRA NMLRA- NMLRA Muzzle Loading only USA - USA Archery/NFAA Level 1 Archery only				
NCAS Standard ⁵	SQ407, SQ408			PS213,PS214,SQ407,SQ408,RP456				PS213,PS214, SQ407,RP456
NSSM	P85	P99	P75	P11-P15	P16-P20	P26-P40	P73	P21-P25
Notes 1: For all resident camp shooting activities on BSA property the SSD or CI running range also serves as RSO								
2: Rifle includes both Airguns and Small Bore								
3: Pistol includes Muzzle Loading and Small Bore								
4: Shooting sports activities not using BSA Council Camp Ranges or established private or public range require prior approval of the shooting location using form 430-065 Private Property Approval for Shooting Sports and an inspection by a Council approved NRA Chief Range Safety Officer.								
5: Applies to Council resident camp shooting sports activities only.								
Acronyms	AI	Assistant Qualified Instructor (18 years old)						
	BB	BB Gun						
	CI	Qualified Instructor (21 years old)						
	NCAS	430-056 National Camp Accreditation Standards						
	NMLRA	National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association						
	NRA	National Rifle Association						
	NSSM	430-938 BSA National Shooting Sports Manual 2015 printing with 2016 supplement						
	PG	Pellet Gun						
	RM	Range Master						
	RSO	Range Safety Officer						
	SSD	National Camping School Currently Certified Shooting Sports Director						

Note: Reminder that RSO is an NRA certification ONLY not to be confused with Cub Range Master.

Using shooting sports **Merit Badge Counselors** for rifle, shotgun, or muzzle loading instructors is problematical. There is only a suggestion that the merit badge counselors hold proper credentials to operate a range or instruct Scouts or Venturers in the shooting sport. **Most shooting sports merit badge counselors in the council do not hold the certifications needed to teach their merit badge or run a range. If they do**

not hold proper credentials, they may not provide shooting sports training or run ranges involving youth members of the BSA.

Always check the RSOs and Instructors that you plan to use for current certification and expiration date. **Both NRA and USA Archery certified instructors can provide their credentials indicating what certifications they have completed and their expiration dates.** The council shooting sports committee can help you verify credentials if necessary. Current Youth Protection is strongly encouraged for all adults working directly with any youth.

Is one RSO and one Instructor sufficient to run my activity? Usually a single RSO and a single instructor is sufficient. Depending on the number of youth that are simultaneously shooting or the relative safety danger of the shooting sport additional instructors and/or RSO will be needed. The following chart indicates what additional range staff will be needed.

Venue	NSSM ⁶	Program ¹	Instructors ⁵	Ratio	Range	Shooter Training ²
Archery	P73	Boy Scouts/Varsity Venturing	1 USA Archery Level 1 Instructor	1 Instructor/8 shooters	BSA or Approved Range	Safety and use orientation
AIR Rifle	P11	Boy Scouts/Varsity Venturing	1 RSO 1 NRA Rifle Instructor	1/8 shooters	BSA or Approved Range	Safety and use orientation
Small Bore Rifle	P12-P13	Boy Scouts/Varsity Venturing	1 RSO 1 NRA Rifle Instructor	1/8 shooters	BSA or Approved Range	30 minute Rifle Orientation
Small Bore Rifle Competition	P14	Boy Scouts/Varsity Venturing	1 RSO 1 NRA Rifle Instructor	1/8 shooters	BSA or Approved Range	NRA First Steps Rifle
Shotgun	P17-P18	Boy Scouts /Varsity Venturing	1 RSO 1 NRA Shotgun Instructor	1 RSO/6 shooters 1 Instructor/shooter	BSA or Approved Range	30 minute Shotgun Orientation
Shotgun Competition	P19	Boy Scouts/Varsity Venturing	1 RSO 1 NRA Shotgun Instructor	1 RSO/5 shooters 1 Instructor/shooter	BSA or Approved Range	NRA First Steps Shotgun
Pistol	P21-P23	Venturing	1 RSO 1 NRA Pistol Instructor	1 RSO 1 Instructor/Shooter	BSA or Approved Range	30 minute Pistol Orientation
Pistol Competition	P24	Venturing	1 RSO 1 NRA Pistol Instructor	1 RSO 1 Instructor/3 Shooters	BSA or Approved Range	NRA First Steps Pistol
Muzzle Loading Rifle	P26-P29	Boy Scouts/Varsity Venturing	1 RSO 1 NRA/NMLRA Instructor	1 RSO/8 Shooters 1 Instructor/3 Shooters	BSA or Approved Range	Shooting Safety and ML loading/unloading
Muzzle Loading Shotgun	P31-P34	Boy Scouts/Varsity Venturing	1 RSO 1 NCS SSD	1 RSO/8 Shooters 1 Instructor/Shooters	BSA or Approved Range	Shooting Safety and ML loading/unloading
Muzzle Loading Pistol	P36-P39	Venturing	1 RSO 1 NRA/NMLRA Instructor	1 RSO/8 Shooters 1 Instructor/3 Shooters	BSA or Approved Range	Shooting Safety and ML loading/unloading
Archery	P73	Cub Scouts ³	1 RM	1 RM/8 shooters	Council Only ³	Safety training by RM
BB Gun	P83	Cub Scouts ³	1 RM	1 RM/8 shooters	Council Only ³	Safety training by RM
Sling Shots/Wrist Rockets	P95	Cub Scouts ³	1 RM	1 RM/8 shooters	Council Only ³	Safety training by RM
Pellet Guns	P95	Webelos ⁴	1 RM	1 RM/8 shooters	Council Only ³	Safety training by RM
Catapults	P96	Cub Scouts ³	1 RM	1 RM/8 shooters	Council Only ³	Safety training by RM
Paintball	Banned Activity-see GTSS					

Laser Tag	Banned Activity-see GTSS					
Tomahawk	2013 Update P40	Boy Scouts Venturing	1 RSO/Instructor	1 RSO/shooter	Council Only	Safety and Throwing

Acronyms

CMP Civilian Marksmanship Program

GTSS Guide to Safe Scouting

NMLRA National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association

NRA National Rifle Association

RM BSA Range Master

RSO NRA Certified Range Safety Officer

What parent/guardian permission is needed for shooting sports? Normally your standard unit permission slip will be sufficient, if it identifies that shooting sports activities will be part of their son or daughters program.

There is one exception to this rule: Pistol shooting. The Federal Youth Handgun Act requires a special parental/guardian permission slip specifically stating that the minor has permission to possess and use a handgun as part of their youth program. In addition, this form must be in the youth's possession at all time while participating in the activity. NCAC has developed a suitable form **NCAC Youth Permission Form** which may be downloaded from the shooting sports page on the NCAC Website. Note: this only applies to Venturers, Sea Scouts and Explorers, since the other programs may not shoot pistols. However, it may be used for all firearm related scouting activities.

Hunting Activities: Only Venturers, Sea Scouts or Explorers may participate in hunting activities. They must complete a hunter safety course from the state they will be hunting in, and follow all the state and federal hunting regulations for the state where they will be hunting.

5. Shooting Sports Equipment Restrictions

- **Cub Scouts-Webelos**

Archery – Recurve Bows with 25# or less pull

Genesis standard or mini bow adjusted to 20# or less pull

Arrows of safe length for archer (29" or longer)

Arm guards and finger tabs for all archers

BB guns – Bolt action with muzzle velocity less than 350 feet/second and greater than 2.5-pound trigger pull.

Pellet guns - Bolt action with muzzle velocity less than 350 feet/second and greater than 2.5-pound trigger pull (WEBELOS only) Safety glasses must be used by all shooters

- **Boy Scouts, Varsity**

Archery – Recurve Bows with 25# or less pull

Genesis youth standard or mini bow adjusted to 20# or less pull
Arrows of safe length for archer (29" or longer)
Arm guards and finger tabs for all archers

Pellet guns - Bolt action with muzzle velocity less than 550 feet/second and 2.5 pound or greater trigger pull

Small Bore Rifles – Bolt action (may use up to 5 round maximum magazine)

Muzzle Loading Rifles – Percussion 50 caliber maximum suggested (No Flint locks)

Shotgun – 20 or 12ga pump or semiauto action

Safety glasses and ear protection must be used by all shooters

- **Venturing, Sea Scouts, Explorers**

Archery – Recurve Bows with 25# or less pull

Genesis youth standard or mini bow adjusted to 20# or less pull

Arrows of safe length for archer (29" or longer)

Arm guards and finger tabs for all archers

Pellet guns - Bolt action with muzzle velocity less than 550 feet/second and greater than 2.5-pound trigger pull

Small Bore Rifles – Bolt action 5 round maximum magazine load

Small Bore or Centerfire Semiauto Pistols – Magazine compatible with local laws

Small Bore or Centerfire Revolvers Single or Double action

Muzzle Loading Rifles – Percussion 50 caliber maximum suggested (No Flint locks)

Muzzle Loading Pistols - Percussion 50 caliber maximum suggested (No Flint locks)

Muzzle Loading Shotgun – Percussion 12ga or 20ga (No Flint Locks)

Shotgun – 20 or 12ga pump or semiauto action

Safety glasses and ear protection must be used by all shooters

NO CLASS III (FULL AUTO) FIREARMS ALLOWED
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6. Range Operating Procedures

You will need to have range operating procedures for use by the RSO's during your shooting activity. The NCAC Shooting Sports Committee has developed a standard set of operating procedures for all ranges in council camps and for use by districts or units for their shooting sports activities. For ease of use, these procedures are sectioned by shooting sport. The NCA SOP may be downloaded from the shooting sports page on the NCAC website.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
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National Capital Area Council Boy Scouts of America

YOUTH PERMISSION FORM

Firearms, Treat, Activity, Release of Minor, Photo

The following signatures are required for Scouts\Varsity\Sea Scouts\Venturers\ Explorers to fully participate.

One form per youth participant required.

MINOR'S NAME (Please print):

Unit#:

PERMISSION TO TREAT

In case of emergency, I understand every effort will be made to contact me (if participant is an adult, my spouse or next of kin). In the event I cannot be reached, I hereby give my permission to the licensed healthcare practitioner selected by the adult leader in charge to secure proper treatment, including hospitalization, anesthesia, surgery, or injections of medication for my child (or for me, if participant is an adult).

Signature of parent/guardian or adult: _____

Date:

PARENTAL FIREARMS PERMISSION AND RELEASE

U.S. Federal Law prohibits any person from furnishing, loaning or otherwise providing a minor any firearm or live ammunition without the express permission of their parent or guardian. Your son/daughter will not be allowed on the shooting range without the following signed release. If you do not wish your son/daughter to participate in shooting activities please write "NO PERMISSION".

MINOR'S NAME (Please print):

I (Please print) the Parent or Legal Guardian of the above named minor do hereby give permission as required by Federal Code 18 U.S.C. Chapter 44, et. seq. to the Boy Scouts of America, National Capital Area Council, and to instructors certified by the National Capital Area Council meeting the requirements for instructors established by the Boy Scouts of America (National), to furnish a firearm, BB Gun, .22 Rifle (or higher caliber if appropriate), 20 gauge shotgun, 12-gauge shotgun, .22 handgun (or higher caliber if appropriate for Venturers\Sea Scouts\Explorers only), and ammunition to said minor for the purpose of instructing him/her in the safe handling of firearms, safe shooting and marksmanship.

I do further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Boy Scouts of America, National Capital Area Council and all officers, members, employees, and volunteers thereof, from all suits or actions brought for, or on account of, any injuries or damages received or sustained by any person or persons by or from the consequences of any negligence or any act or omission of the above named minor occurring during the course of said instruction.

Date Permission Granted: From: _____ To: _____

Signed: _____ The Parent\Legal Guardian

Print full name: _____ Date: _____

Please turn the page over for more permission signatures

National Capital Area Council

Boy Scouts of America

RELEASE OF MINOR

I, the parent or guardian of _____ troop/crew/team/post number
(Name of Minor)

Reason for _____
Departure: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____ Date: _____

PHOTO (TALENT) RELEASE

I hereby assign and grant to the Boy Scouts of America the right and permission to use and publish the photographs/film/video/electronic representations and/or sound recordings made during my Scouts visit to any NCAC, BSA activity. I hereby release the Boy Scouts of America, and the National Capital Area Council from any and all liability from such use and promotion. I hereby authorize the reproduction, sale, copyright, exhibit, broadcast, electronic storage and/or distribution of said photographs/ film/video tapes/electronic representations and/or sound recordings without limitation at the discretion of the Boy Scouts of America, National Capital Area Council. I specifically waive any right to any compensation I may have for any of the foregoing.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____ Date: _____

CONSENT TO FULL PROGRAM

National Capital Area Council Camp programs may include some or all of the following activities: horseback riding, archery, swimming, boating (rowboat, canoe, kayak), hiking, mountain biking, crafts, use of knife and

ax, rock climbing, rappelling, Project COPE, team sports, shooting sports and other activities. Your signature below will grant consent for the above named youth. This consent does not include firearms. The consent specific to firearms must also be completed for participation in shooting sports.

Please check one of the options and state any limitations:

Consent to full program Consent to program with the following limitations/exclusions:

Signature of parent/guardian _____ Date: _____

NCAC



NCAC Shooting Sports Request for Specific Event

All requests to allow or support a shooting sport (archery, rifle, pistol, shotgun, slingshot, BB) at any event held in NCAC (Council, District, Unit) must be submitted in a timely manner using the form below. The event is not authorized for shooting sports unless event approval is received from the NCAC Shooting Sports Committee. Please follow these guidelines for submission:

- For large events (50+ expected participants) a **minimum of six (6) months' notice** to the NCAC Shooting Sports Committee is required to allow time to arrange for scheduling instructor staff and equipment.
- For other events (under 50 expected participants) a **minimum of three (3) months' notice** to the NCAC Shooting Sports Committee is required to allow time to arrange for scheduling instructor staff and equipment.
- **All shooting sports events must comply with BSA Guide to Safe Scouting and BSA Shooting Sports Manual guidelines.**

I am aware of and am responsible for ensuring that BSA Guide to Safe Scouting and BSA Shooting Sports Guidelines are complied with during this event.

(Name): _____ (Date): _____

Concurrence of District Representative to the NCAC Shooting Sports Committee:

(Name): _____ (Date): _____

Event Name:

Event Date(s) and Planned Rain Date(s):

Event Location (Note if BSA authorized location/commercial/private):

Planned Participant Age, Rank or Program Range (Cub, Scouts BSA, Venturing):

Estimated Participant Count by Age Range:

Event POC Contact Information:

Requested Shooting Sport(s):

Facilities Available On Site:

Equipment required to support event:

Secure equipment storage plan:

Social distancing and sanitization plan:

Staffing Event:

Event Staff Names, BSA ID#, NRA ID#, and Shooting Sport Certifications w/ Expire Date (if any):

(include whether BSA training on pandemic safety guidelines for events has been received)

Notes:

NCAC Shooting Sports Committee Approval:

(Yes) Date: _____ **(No) Date:** _____

Reviewed By (Name): _____