

Scouting America Range and Target Activities Overview

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Why Have Range Activities in Scouting?

- Popular program that promotes recruitment and retention
- Opportunity to teach safety at a young age
- Future competition opportunities: high school, college and Olympic sports
- Potential lifelong hobby



SAFETY ALWAYS COMES FIRST!

Suit against Boy Scouts: 'Pattern of failures' led to fatal shooting of 11-year-old at Hawaii campsite



3 to face firearms offenses in child's shooting death at Hawaii Boy Scouts camp



Programs Available

- **Cub Scouts**

- Council and District Camps & Events Only: **No Pack or Den!**
- BB Guns, Archery, Slingshots
- Webelos/AOLs: Pellet Rifles at Council Long-term Camps Only
- Supervision: Cub Scout Rangemaster or higher certifications (NRA Rifle Instructor for Web/AOL pellet rifle at Council camps)

- **Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts**

- **NEW: Identical activities in each program**
- Troop/Crew/Ship Unit-level Events
- National High Adventure Base, Council, District Camps & Events
- Supervision: NRA Instructors/Range Safety Officers or USA Archery Instructors (third-party training and certification)



Required Council Pre-Approval

Advance Approval by NCAC *Required* for Troop/District Events

- Approval Process Through Council Range & Target Activities Committee
- Big Issues:
 - Permissible Activity and Equipment
 - Qualified Supervision (all certifications will be checked)
 - Approved Location
- Recommend *MINIMUM* of 2 months' lead time
- Council will confirm all requirements are met for a **safe** and fun event



Available Activities

**We'll focus on the opportunities
available in Scouts BSA and higher
programs**



Available Activities

- **Air Rifle/BB Gun** (BBs also available for Cubs)
 - Air rifles must shoot at 540 Feet per second (FPS) or less, .177 caliber pellets, single shot only (new limitation)
- **Rifle**
 - .22 caliber rimfire bolt action only
 - With/without box magazine
 - No semi-autos, lever action

Prone or supported bench
positions recommended



Available Activities

- **Shotgun**

- 12 Gauge or smaller
- Ammo: Shot size 7.5, 8, 9 (typical skeet/trap shot sizes)
- Can be any action type, semi-auto recommended
- Straightaway trap recommended



- **Muzzleloading Rifle/Shotgun**

- Must be of modern manufacture
- Kit guns must be inspected by a gunsmith
- **No Flintlocks**



Available Activities

- **Archery** (also available for Cubs)
 - Proper sized equipment and pull weight
 - Recurve or Compound Bows
 - Target points, No broadheads/field points
- **Slingshots/Wrist rockets** (also available for Cubs)
 - Ammo must not be hard (no stones, etc.)
 - Biodegradable preferred: suggest dog food kibbles
- **Tomahawk/Knife Throwing**
 - Hawks: French or Blackhawk—10-18” handles
 - Purpose-specific commercial throwing knives
 - *NOT* hatchets or Scout knives!



Available Activities

- *Previous Venturing and Sea Scout Marksmanship programs no longer exist*
- **Pistol *New Program***
 - Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts
 - “Older Scout” Program
 - Age 13 and out of 8th grade or age 14+
 - *Must* use NRA First Steps Orientation Program
 - May only be done at Council/District level
 - All firearms must be Council provided
 - No personally owned firearms
 - Additional restrictions apply
- **Cowboy Action Shooting** (not available in NCAC)



*Qualified Supervision is **REQUIRED***

It is essential that all range activities be conducted under the supervision of qualified instructors



Qualified Supervision is **REQUIRED**

New Requirement

- All Unit-level activities **MUST** have at least one registered adult unit leader on-site who has completed the new **Range Activities SAFETY online training**

- my.scouting.org
 - My Training
 - Expanded Learning
 - Program Safety
 - Range Activities SAFETY

Catalog > Range Activities Safety



Range Activities Safety

Course

Total time: 30 minutes

Last Completion: 09/28/2024

Progress • 100%

Description

The purpose of Scouting America's range safety. Scouting America's range and tan training and experiences.



Qualified Supervision is REQUIRED

- **Rifle/Air Rifle/Muzzleloading/Pistol**
 - NRA Certified Rifle Instructor or Range Activities Director *AND* NRA Certified Range Safety Officer (2 people)
 - Ratio: 1 RSO and Instructor to 8 Scouts
 - Muzzleloading: NRA/NMLRA ML Instructor; 1:1 Ratio
 - Pistol: NRA Pistol Instructor; 1:1 Ratio
- **Shotgun**
 - NRA Certified Shotgun Instructor or Range Activities Director *AND* NRA Certified Range Safety Officer (2 people)
 - Ratio: 1 to 1 Instructor to Scout that is currently shooting
 - (1:6 RSO permitted with 1:1 Instructor)



Qualified Supervision is **REQUIRED**

- **Archery**
 - USA Archery Level 1 (or higher) Instructor or Range Activities Director
 - Ratio: 1 to 8
- **Tomahawk/Knife Throwing/Slingshots**
 - Responsible adult with experience with the discipline
 - (NRA Instructor/RSO or USAA Instructor preferred)
 - BB Rangemaster OK for slingshots
 - Ratio: 1 to 1 (1 to 4 for slingshots in Scouts BSA and higher)



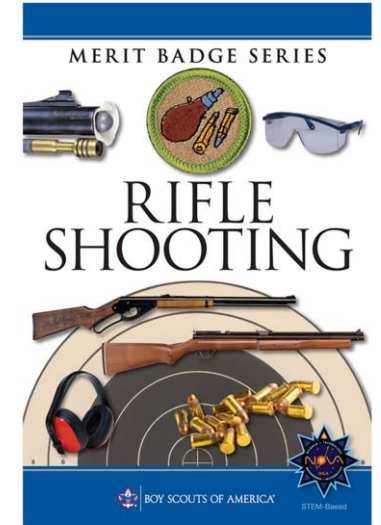
Where can my Troop/Crew shoot?

- Firearms
 - Scout Council Range
 - Public/private “Commercial Range”
 - “Commercial” includes private clubs with permanent ranges and other requirements
 - ***NO Private Land or Ad Hoc Ranges***
- Archery/Throwing Sports
 - Anywhere that is safe, legal and can be set up per Scouting America guidelines
 - Guideline links available on [Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org)



Merit Badge Program

- All Range operations for unit merit badge instruction and requirement completion must be under control of a currently certified NRA or USA Archery Instructor
- Some merit badge counselors in NCAC are not certified to manage the range activities and on-range shooting required for a scout to complete the merit badge.



Resources

NCAC Range & Target Activities Web Site:

<https://www.ncacbsa.org/shooting-sports/>

- **NCAC Range & Target Event Approval Form**
- Scouting America Range & Target Activities Manual
- Contact Info and how to get help



Scouting America R&TA Web Site:

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/range-activities/>



Questions?



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