



*University of Scouting*  
***BSA-327***  
*Range and Target*  
*Activities For Scouts*



# ***Today We're Covering***

- **The Benefits of Scouts BSA Range & Target Activities**
- **The Available Activities**
- **Qualified Supervision Standards & Training**
- **Where to Shoot**
- **Information Resources**

**We'll be emphasizing the new National R&TA Rules, effective  
9/1/2024 and 1/1/2025**



# ***Why Have Range Activities in Scouting?***

- Popular program that promotes recruitment and retention
- Opportunity to teach safety at a young age
- 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**



HAWAII  
**NEWS NOW**

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





# *What's Changed?*

## Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts

- **NEW:** Equipment and Location Restrictions
- **NEW:** “Older Scout Program” replaces former Venturing and Sea Scouts Pistol Marksmanship Programs
- **NEW:** Unit Training Requirements
- Some Merit Badge Requirement Changes



# *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



# Required Council Pre-Approval



## RANGE & TARGET ACTIVITY EVENT APPROVAL REQUEST FORM

*Please Read all appended [Instructions](#) before completing and submitting this form*

### 1. Who will be conducting this event

- a. Request submitter (will be primary POC for all follow-up):  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Requesting Group (Unit, District, NCAC org., etc.): \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Event Date(s) and any alternate (hazardous weather) date(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Event Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Name & Contact Information for requesting group (1) lead uniformed leader (SM, ADV, Skipper; Dist. Commish.) & (2) Committee Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Details about this event

- a. Event Location (firearms events must be at Scout camp or established "commercial" range): \_\_\_\_\_



# <https://ncacscouting.org/outdoor-adventures/range-and-target/>

Scouting America  
National Capital Area Council


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[National Capital Area Council](#) > [Outdoor Adventures](#) > Range & Target Activities

## Range & Target Activities

***Welcome to the home page for Range & Target Activities in the National Capital Area Council!***



### What are Range & Target Activities?

From Cub Scouts to Venturers, Range & Target Activities are some of the most popular parts of the Scouting program.

Range & Target Activities teach archery, firearms, and throwing sports safety while introducing Scouts to a variety of fun, interactive program experiences. Range & Target Activities are developed and implemented through safe, well-planned, and carefully supervised age-appropriate programs for each Scout who chooses to participate. Range & Target Activities have formed the basis for lifelong hobbies and opportunities for generations of Scouts.

Range & Target Activities include District and Council-level [Cub Scout Adventures](#) in archery, BBs, and slingshots. In [Scouts BSA](#) and [older Scout programs](#), Range & Target Activities include the [Archery](#), [Rifle Shooting](#), and [Shotgun Shooting](#) Merit Badges, as well as Unit, District, Council, and National High Adventure Base programs in [archery](#), [rifle target shooting](#), [shotgun clay sports](#), [black powder muzzleloading](#), and [tomahawk and knife throwing](#). Some Council





# *Available Activities*





# ***Five Levels of Shooting Activities***

**Applies to Firearms events, Including Air Rifle**

*(As a practical matter, almost all unit and district=levels 2 or 3)*

1. BB/Air Rifle Shooting Experience (intro/recruiting event)
2. Open Shooting Experience (e.g., Troop shoots, camporees)
3. Ongoing Shooting Experience (e.g., Merit Badge, Ranger Award)
4. Competitive Level (e.g., NRA/CMP Competitions)
5. NRA Instructor Course (Apprentice or Asst. Instructor)

*Pistol First Steps Orientation is considered a Level 1 program only*



# Available Activities

## Air Rifle or BB Gun (BBs also available for Cubs)

- Eye Protection Required
- Air Rifles
  - .177 pellets only
  - 540 fps maximum velocity  
(BB Gun max muzzle velocity 350 fps)
  - 10 meter range recommended
  - Open, aperture or scope sights allowed
  - NEW Requirement:
    - **NEW: Single shot only** (no repeaters)



# Available Activities

## Rifle

- .22 caliber rimfire bolt action *only*
  - Commercial ammo, no reloads
- With/without box magazine
- No semi-autos, lever action, tube magazines
- Trigger pull 3lbs
- Eye and Ear Protection Required

**NEW: No more Venturing or Sea Scouts centerfire or caliber larger than .22LR**  
(some National High Adv Programs have waivers)

Supported prone or bench positions recommended  
(Venturing 3P for Rifle Elective in Ranger Award)



# *Available Activities*

## **Shotgun**

- 12 Gauge or smaller (12 or 20 gauge recommended)
- Ammo: Shot size 7.5, 8, 9 (clay sports shot sizes)
  - New commercial ammo, no reloads
- Can be any action type
  - semi-auto recommended to reduce recoil
  - single loaded (exception for Level 3/4 activities)
- Eye and Ear Protection Required
- Straightaway trap recommended for beginners
  - (American trap, skeet, five stand OK for experienced)



# *Available Activities*

## **Muzzleloading Rifle/Shotgun**

- Must be of modern manufacture
- Percussion sidelock or modern inline
- **No Flintlocks**
- Eye and Ear Protection Required

### Rifle:

- .45 or .50 caliber recommended
- Round ball, conical, sabot

### Shotgun:

- 10 gauge or smaller
- 7.5 shot or smaller

Kit guns must be inspected by a gunsmith

Minimum recommended powder load for the gun is best





# *Available Activities*

- **Archery** (also available for Cubs)
  - Proper sized equipment and pull weight
  - Recurve or Compound Bows
  - Target points, No broadheads/field points
  - Arm Guards and finger tabs/shooting gloves
  - Recommend 10-15 yards for novices



# *Available Activities*

## Throwing Sports

- **Slingshots/Wrist rockets** (also available for Cubs)
  - Ammo must not be hard (no stones, ball bearings etc.)
  - Biodegradable preferred: suggest horse beets or dog kibbles
- **Tomahawk/Knife Throwing**
  - Hawks: French or Blackhawk—10-18" handles
  - Purpose-specific commercial throwing knives
  - *NOT* hatchets or Scout knives!



# Available (?) Activities

- **Pistol** *New Program NOT AVAILABLE IN NCAC AT THIS TIME*

- Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts
- “Older Scout” Program
  - Age 13 and out of 8<sup>th</sup> grade or age 14+
- **Must** use NRA First Steps Orientation Program
- .177 air pistols; .22LR; 9MM and .38 spl. calibers only
- **May only be done at Council/District level**
- **All firearms must be Council provided**
  - No personally owned firearms
- No muzzleloading/black powder pistols



- **Cowboy Action Shooting** (not available in NCAC)
- **Chalkball/Paintball, Airsoft** (not available in NCAC)
- **Sporting Arrows** (not available in NCAC)



# ***Venturing and Sea Scouts***

## **Former Venturing and Sea Scouts Programs Have Changed**

- Venturing and Sea Scouts may now **ONLY** use the same types of guns as Scouts BSA:
  - Pellet air rifle or .22 bolt action rifle
  - Shotgun
  - Muzzleloading Rifle and Shotgun
  - Archery
  - Throwing Sports
  - **Older Scout Pistol Program** using **ONLY** NRA First Steps Orientation Program at Council/District level, with Council-owned firearms
- **No centerfire rifle, open pistol or hunting**



# Available Activities

## Sea Scouts Marksmanship Program (requirements not yet updated)

*Based on Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program*

- **Rifle**
  - Basic (adopts some requirements of Rifle Shooting MB)
  - Intermediate (adopts requirements from MQP Prone/Benchrest Pro-Marksman)
  - Advanced (adopts requirements from MQP Standing Pro-Marksman)
  - Expert (*NRA Instructor course*, requirements from MQP Standing Marksman)
- **Shotgun**
  - Similar level design to Rifle, Basic through Expert
- **Pistol** ***Not Available in NCAC***
  - **Unclear** whether Basic or Intermediate Levels would be permissible
  - **NO** Advanced and Expert levels (weak side; timed; NRA Instructor course)





# *Available Activities*

## **Venturing Ranger Award** (requirements not yet updated)

### Range & Target Activities Elective, 5 of 7 options Still available:

- Air rifle: 10 meter prone, kneeling, standing; 60 shots for score
- .22 smallbore rifle: 50 foot prone, kneeling, standing; 60 shots for score
- Muzzleloading rifle: 25 & 50 yards, standing; 100 shots for score
- Shotgun: skeet and/or trap, 100 shots for score
- Archery: 18 & 40 meters, recurve or compound, 30 arrows for score
- Air Pistol and Pistol: **No.** Current course of fire is beyond First Steps

**Hunting Elective: No.** Current hunting requirement prohibited

### Venturing Shooting Sports Outstanding Achievement Award

- 5 of 7 R&TA elective options



***Qualified Supervision is REQUIRED***



# 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](https://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 target training and experiences.



# *Qualified Supervision is **REQUIRED***

## **Air Rifle**

- NRA Certified Rifle Instructor or NCS Range Activities Director
- Ratio: 1 Instructor to 8 Scouts minimum



## **.22 Rifle**

- NRA Certified Rifle Instructor or NCS Range Activities Director
- For .22 rifle, also need NRA Certified Range Safety Officer (2 people)
- Ratio: 1 RSO *and* Instructor to 8 Scouts minimum





# *Qualified Supervision is **REQUIRED***

## **Shotgun**

- NRA Certified Shotgun Instructor or NCS Range Activities Director *AND* NRA Certified Range Safety Officer (2 people)
- Ratio: 1 to 1 Instructor to Scout during live fire
- 1:6 RSO and non-live fire instruction
- Instructor maintains control of shells





# *Qualified Supervision is REQUIRED*

## Muzzleloading Rifle

- NRA Co-op Muzzleloading Rifle Instructor or NMLRA Muzzleloading Instructor *AND* NRA Certified Range Safety Officer (2 people)
- Ratio: 1 to 1 Instructor to Scout during loading, capping, and live fire.
- 1:8 RSO and non-live fire instruction

## Muzzleloading Shotgun

- Same ratios as for ML Rifle BUT Instructor must be NMLRA-certified

(Black Power Pistol no longer allowed)



# *Qualified Supervision is **REQUIRED***

## **Archery**

- USA Archery Level 1 (or higher) Instructor or NCS Range Activities Director
- Ratio: 1 to 8

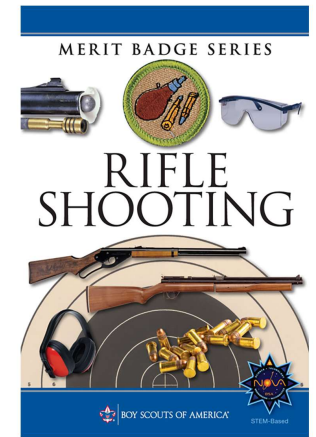
## **Tomahawk/Knife Throwing/Slingshots**

- Responsible adult familiar with tomahawk/knife throwing
  - (NRA Instructor/RSO or USAA Instructor preferred)
- BB Rangemaster OK for slingshots
- Ratio: 1 to 1 for tomahawks and knives
- 1 to 4 for slingshots



# ***Merit Badge Program Supervision***

- Rifle Shooting, Shotgun Shooting, Archery Merit Badges Have Revised Requirements, effective 1/1/2025
- All Range operations for unit merit badge instruction and requirement completion must be under the control of a currently certified NRA or USA Archery Instructor
- Some merit badge counselors in NCAC are not certified manage the range activities and on-range shooting required for a scout to complete the merit badge.



# *Where Can I Get Training?*

## **Firearms**

<http://nrainstructors.org>

- Search for needed course
- Check for BSA discounts



## **Archery**

<http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Archery.aspx>

- Search for courses



NCAC and other Councils directly offer some training





# *What Training Do Scouts Need?*

## **All Events**

- Safety and Range Briefing
- Specifics depend on activity and level

## **Firearms**

- Scouting America Training PowerPoint specific to activity, presented by a current Certified Instructor in that discipline
  - <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/shooting-sports/scouts-bsa-shooting-sports/>
  - <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/range-activities/venture-and-sea-scout-shooting-sports/>
  - OR Merit Badge Program or NRA First Steps Training for firearm type





# *Where can my Troop/Crew shoot?*



# Where can my Troop/Crew shoot?

## New Limitations

### Firearms

- Scout Council Range
- Public/private “Commercial Range”
  - “Commercial” includes private clubs with permanent ranges that also meet other requirements



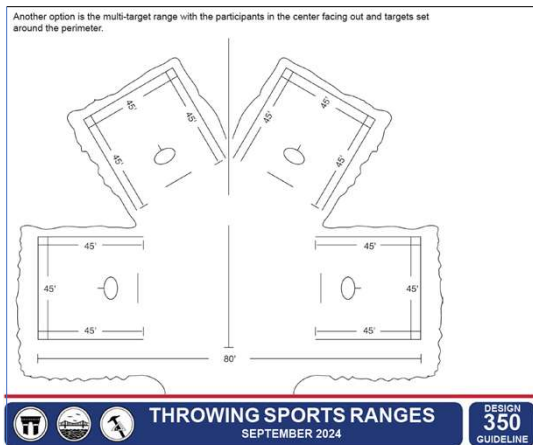
- *NO Private Land or Ad Hoc Ranges*
- *NO Privately-owned firearms at Council camp ranges*



# Where can my Troop/Crew shoot?

## Archery/Throwing Sports

- Anywhere that is safe, legal and can be set up per Scouting America Design Guidelines
- Design Guidelines for ranges available on [Scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org/design-guidelines/)



- DG313 for Archery Ranges
- DG350 for Throwing Ranges



# Resources

NCAC Range & Target Activities Web Site:

<https://ncacscouting.org/outdoor-adventures/range-and-target/>

- ***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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