

OPEN PISTOL SHOOTING EXPERIENCE

FOR 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 Instructor and NRA 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 pistol.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

YOUTH REQUIREMENTS

Registered Venturers or Sea Scouts and youth who are age appropriate participating in a recruiting event.

All youth participants are required to have written permission from their parent or guardian before they can take part in the program. A sample permission form is included in the back of this guide. The council may also include this as part of the overall permissions for the camp or activity; however, it must clearly state that a youth has the parent or guardian's permission to handle and fire a firearm.





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:

- BSA Range
- Public Range
- Private Range
- Commercial range
- Private Property Range.

Public, private property or commercial ranges must be certified using the application found here:

[Click here](#)

or

type this address in browser

[https://www.scouting.org/
filestore/
Outdoor%20Program/
Shooting%20Sports/
430-065_WB.pdf](https://www.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/Shooting%20Sports/430-065_WB.pdf)

ADULT SUPERVISION AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

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

APPLICABLE LAWS

BSA 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 PISTOL SHOOTING SPORTS EXPERIENCE

Purpose. Teach youth the Knowledge, Skill and Attitude (KSA) of safe handling of firearm in a shooting sports program.

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

Required for Sea Scouts and Venturers: BSA Pistol Safety Briefing in this document.

Training References: [Download Sea Scout Shooting Sports Requirements](#); [Download Ranger Award Requirements](#), NRA Basics of Pistol Shooting.

Youth. Venturers and Sea Scouts

Pistol requirement. Any cartridge-firing pistol with open, scope, or dot sights

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

Reloaded ammunition is not approved for BSA programs.

Range. A BSA-approved range or a public or private commercial range or club. Note that if using private property for the range location, you must follow the BSA private property range approval process, which can be found in the appendix. This information can also be found at [Download Private Property Approval Form](#).

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

Range supervision. A 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 Pistol Instructor. These must be two separate individuals.

Ratio. One NRA Range Safety Officer per eight shooters. One certified NRA Pistol Instructor per two shooters while loading and shooting.

Range and Targets Identified in the requirements for the awards. (See training references) Exploding targets are not allowed in Boy Scouts of America Program.

Range Commands

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

BEFORE YOUTH ARRIVE AT THE PROGRAM AREA

All pistols, 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. Trigger pull tested and set to 3 pounds or higher.

WHEN YOUTH ARE PRESENT IN THE PROGRAM AREA

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

ON THE RANGE

- Eye and ear protection must be cleaned between each shooter.
- Range staff will assist the RSO and Instructor by setting up shooting positions on range. Use of loading ammunition blocks is recommended.
- 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.

Reloaded ammunition is not approved for BSA programs.

Range. A BSA-approved facility, public, private, commercial or club range. Note that if using private property for the range location, you must follow the BSA private property range approval process, which can be found in the appendix. This information can also be found at [Download Private Property Approval Form](#).



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	_____
_____ Pistol racks available	_____
_____ Empty trash receptacles available	_____
_____ Lockable storage	_____
_____ Eye and ear protection available	_____
_____ Handwashing Station Available	_____
_____ Emergency communications & plan	_____

RANGE SAFETY BRIEFING

Note: This briefing is best done within viewing site of the shooting range. When firearms are used during the briefing, the NRA RSO must follow the NRA gun safety rules.

Have participants read the NRA "Range Safety Rules" poster.

Review the NRA's three "Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling" (verbatim), and discuss general range rules (see below). Ask questions for reinforced learning.

BSA PISTOL SAFETY BRIEFING

- No **LIVE** Ammunition in the classroom!
- To provide beginning shooters with Knowledge Skills and Attitude necessary to shoot a pistol safely under direct supervision of a certified instructor.
- 3 Rules of Gun Safety
 - o Always keep your gun pointed in a safe direction

- o Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot
 - o Always keep your gun unloaded until ready to us.
- Parts of a pistol
 - o Loading dummy rounds
 - o Cocking
 - o Dry Fire
 - o Unloading
- Demonstrate pistol operation
- Benchrest or Standing Positions
 - o Shooting Fundamentals
 - ♣ Determine Eye Dominance
 - ♣ Aiming
 - ♣ Breath Control
 - ♣ Hold Control
 - ♣ Trigger Control
 - ♣ Follow through
 - o The most important - Aiming and Trigger Control
- Range Layout
 - o Ready Area
 - o Firing Line
 - o Target Area
 - o Back Stop
- Other Safety Rules
 - o Know your target and what is beyond
 - o Eye and Ear Protection
 - o No alcohol or drugs

- Range Commands
 - ♣ "Eye and ear protection on"
 - ♣ "Shooters to the ready line."
 - ♣ "Shooters to the firing line"
 - ♣ "Is the line ready?"
 - ♣ "Load."
 - ♣ "Ready on the firing line."
 - ♣ "Commence firing."
 - ♣ "Cease fire."

Download the Pistol Briefing by [clicking here](#)

or

typing this address in your browser
[https://www.scouting.org/Home/OutdoorProgram/
ShootingSports.aspx](https://www.scouting.org/Home/OutdoorProgram/ShootingSports.aspx)

SAMPLE PERMISSION FORM

Scouting Participation and Hold-Harmless Agreement

_____ (Unit, District or Council) is conducting a shooting sports program. Scouts will be instructed how to handle, maintain, and shoot a Pistol safely and be provided instruction to increase their shooting skills. Scouts will have classroom instruction and range instruction in which they will fire a Pistol under the supervision of a trained NRA Range Safety Officer and NRA certified Pistol Instructor.

Scouts will be required to wear eye protection and hearing protection always while on the range. Scouts are expected to abide by all safety rules and the instructions of the NRA Range Safety Officer(s) and Pistol Instructor(s).

I, the undersigned, give my child, _____, permission to participate in this program. I understand that participation in the activity involves a certain degree of risk.

I have carefully considered the risk involved and have given consent for my child to participate in the activity. I understand that participation in the activity is entirely voluntary and requires participants to abide by the rules and standards of conduct. I release the Boy Scouts of America, the local council, the activity coordinators, and all employees, volunteers, related parties, or other organizations associated with the activity from all claims or liability arising out of this participation.

For safety, my child and I agree that he/she will do the following or he/she will be removed from the program. I understand that any additional cost associated with participation in this program will not be refunded if my child is removed due to behavioral problems.

1. Complete the training offered as part of the program.
2. Wear all safety gear always while on the range.
3. Follow all safety rules provided in the training class.
4. Follow the instructions of the NRA Range Safety Officer(s) and NRA Pistol Instructor(s).
5. Do not handle any Pistols until instructed to do so by the Pistol Instructor(s).
6. Follow the instructions of the NRA Range Safety Officer(s) always.
7. Is a registered Boy Scout, Venturer, or Sea Scout

Participant signature _____ Date: _____

Parent/guardian signature _____ Date: _____

Parent/guardian printed name _____ Date: _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____