

# INSTRUCTIONAL SHOTGUN EXPERIENCE

## FOR BOY SCOUTS, 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 Boy Scouts, Venturers or Sea Scouts and youth who are age appropriate participating in a Shotgun instructional curriculum designed to develop and improve shooting skills.

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 from the NRA as a Instructor
3. RSO must have current certification from the NRA as a 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 SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM

**Purpose.** o 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 Boy Scout Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge, Venturing Ranger Award and Sea Scout Shooting Sports Medal. Shooting programs could be held at a BSA facility or public or private commercial range or club.

**Youth.** Boy Scouts, Venturers, Sea Scouts

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

**Ammunition.** Correct ammunition for the shotgun being fired. Light loads of shot size #7 1/2 or smaller is recommended. 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 [www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/home/outdoorprogram/shootingsports.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/home/outdoorprogram/shootingsports.aspx).

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

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

**Training References:** Boy Scout Shotgun Merit Badge Pamphlet; [Download Sea Scout Shooting Sports Requirements](#); [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
  - 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 shotgun
- Demonstrate shotgun operation
  - o Loading dummy rounds
  - o Cocking
  - o Dry Fire
  - o 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
  - 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
  - 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.

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

or

typing this address in your browser

<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 shotgun safely and be provided instruction to increase their shooting skills. Scouts will have classroom instruction and range instruction in which they will fire a shotgun under the supervision of a trained Range Safety Officer and NRA certified Shotgun 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 Range Safety Officer(s) and Shotgun 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 Range Safety Officer(s) and Shotgun Instructor(s).
5. Do not handle any shotguns until instructed to do so by the Shotgun Instructor(s).
6. Follow the instructions of the 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 \_\_\_\_\_