

OPEN SHOOTING ARCHERY 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 Archery program. All BSA Policies must be followed and instructors are required to be certified as a USA Archery Level 1 Instructor. In this publication, you will find youth requirements and training requirements for adults who are providing archery programs.

This program offers a fun and safe introduction to Archery.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

YOUTH REQUIREMENTS

To participate in the archery program the following requirements must be met:

- Participants must be registered in Boy Scouts, Venturers or Sea Scouts
- Youth not registered in an official program must meet the required age guidelines to participate 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 Appendix 1 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 child has the parent or guardian's permission to handle Archery equipment.





STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

The standard operating procedures (SOPs) of the range should also be reviewed by USA Archery Level 1 Instructor before delivering this program. All equipment must be approved for use by the USA Archery Level 1.

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 USA Archery Level 1 Instructor certification and be at least 18 years of age.

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 using archery equipment.



OPERATING PROCEDURES

The procedures outlined in the USA Archery Level 1 Instructor manual provides the guidelines for operating an indoor or outdoor archery range. All archery equipment used during the open shoot must be approved for use by the USA Archery Level 1 Instructor.

THE RANGE

An approved range can include:

- BSA Range
- Public or private commercial range
- Private property or club

Ranges must be set up under leadership of the USA Archery Level 1 Instructor.

OPEN ARCHERY SHOOTING EXPERIENCE

Purpose. Introduce and recruit Scouts into archery shooting sports programs.

Examples. A day-at-the-range event (fun shoot), camporee, camp weekend shoot, or Order of the Arrow event are examples. An open shooting experience could be held at a BSA-approved facility, public, private, commercial or club range.

Youth. Boy Scouts and Venturers

Training References: Boy Scout Archery Merit Badge Pamphlet; [Download Ranger Award Requirements](#)

Equipment and Targets: Age appropriate recurve or compound bows must be used.

Crossbows are not allowed. Manual and mechanical release systems are allowed. Any sighting systems can be used.

Allowable arrows and targets. All arrows must have target points. Requirements are set forth in the Merit Badge Pamphlet and Venture Award materials. No zombie or humanoid targets are allowed.

Target butts can be made of any penetrable materials so arrows will partially penetrate but not go through the butt material. Synthetic, foam and natural materials can be used in the manufacture of butts.

Range. A BSA-approved range or a public or private commercial range or club. Note that if using private property for the range location, the USA Archery Level 1 Instructor manual provides safety distance guidelines for outdoor range inspection prior to approving a location for an archery range.

Training: USA ARCHERY Level 1 Instructor or higher level instructor certification.

Safety. Arm-guards and finger tabs or gloves are required. If mechanical releases are used the finger tabs or gloves are not required.

Range supervision. A certified USA ARCHERY Level 1 Instructor or higher. Student to Instructor ratio is 1:8.

Here are the whistle commands.

- o 2 whistle blasts - Go to the line
- o 1 whistle blast - Shoot
- o 3 whistle blasts - Retrieve Arrows
- o 5 or more blasts - Emergency. Immediately stop shooting, return bows to the rack, and go behind the waiting line

BEFORE YOUTH ARRIVE AT THE PROGRAM AREA

All archery equipment, targets, stands and the physical range must be inspected for safety and preparedness prior to any participant's arrival at the shooting venue.

ON THE RANGE

- Bows, arrows, safety equipment and targets will be at each shooting position
- General staging areas for shooters and those waiting their turn are clearly marked including the Waiting Line, Shooting Line and Target Line.



RANGE INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Inspected by _____ Date _____
 ✓ = Yes

_____ Controlled access/fencing/gates closed	_____
_____ Flags or signs displayed	_____
_____ Range limits identified	_____
_____ Backstop/impact area inspected	_____
_____ Range lines/area marked	_____
_____ Spectator area designated	_____
_____ Supplies available	_____
_____ First-aid kit filled/accessible	_____
_____ Range rules posted	_____
_____ Bulletin board available	_____
_____ Bow racks available	_____
_____ Empty trash receptacles available	_____
_____ Lockable storage	_____
_____ Arm guards and finger protection available	_____
_____ Hand washing Station Available	_____

RANGE SAFETY BRIEFING

Note: This briefing is best done within viewing site of the shooting range.

ARCHERY SAFETY BRIEFING

- Safety is always #1
- To provide beginning shooters with Knowledge, Skill and Attitude (KSA) necessary to shoot a bow and arrow safely under direct supervision of a certified instructor.
- Archery range rules
 - o Always walk on the range
 - o Keep arrows in quiver until told to shoot
 - o Only release the bow string when an arrow is nocked and safely pointed at the target
 - o Leave dropped arrows on the ground until instructed to retrieve them
 - o If there is an emergency on the range immediately alert the instructor
- Parts of a bow and parts of an arrow
- Demonstrate correctly nocking, drawing and shooting an arrow
- Shooting fundamentals
 - o Stance
 - o Nock

- o Hook and grip
- o Posture/Alignment
- o Raise bow
- o Draw
- o Anchor
- o Transfer to hold
- o Aim
- o Release/follow through
- o Feedback
- Explain range layout
 - o Entrance/exit
 - o Waiting Line
 - o Shooting Line
 - o Target Line
 - o Safety Zones
 - o Overshot areas
- Whistle commands
 - o 2 whistle blasts - Go to the line
 - o 1 whistle blast - Shoot
 - o 3 whistle blasts - Retrieve Arrows
 - o 5 or more blasts - Emergency. Immediately stop shooting, return bows to the rack, and go behind the waiting line.

Before running a program check out the Shooting Sports Webpage for updates to this program guide and find other resources.

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

OR

typing this address in your browser

<https://www.scouting.org/Home/OutdoorProgram/ShootingSports.aspx>



SAMPLE PERMISSION FORM

APPENDIX 1

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 Archery safely and be provided instruction to increase their shooting skills. Scouts will have classroom instruction and range instruction in which they will shoot Archery under the supervision of a trained USA Archery Level 1 or higher certified Archery Instructor.

Scouts will be required to wear arm-guard and finger tabs protection while on the range. Scouts are expected to abide by all safety rules and the instructions of the USA Archery Level 1 or higher Archery 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.

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. For safety, my child and I agree that he/she will do the following or he/she will be removed from the program:

1. Complete the training offered as part of the program.
2. Wear all safety gear while on the range.
3. Follow all safety rules provided in the training class.
4. Follow the instructions of the USA Archery Level 1 or higher Archery Instructor.
5. Do not handle an archery equipment until instructed to do so by the USA Archery Level 1 or higher Archery Instructor.
6. Follow the instructions of the USA Archery Level 1 or higher Archery Instructor.
7. Is registered as a Boy Scout, Sea Scout, or Venturer.

Participant signature _____ Date: _____

Parent/guardian signature _____ Date: _____

Parent/guardian printed name _____ Date: _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____