

# Updates to the Range and Target Activities Manual

## (2026 Edition)

Scouting America has released the 2026 edition of the Range and Target Activities Manual that is effective beginning Jan 1, 2026. This update reflects a combination of terminology alignment, program clarification, and policy updates intended to improve consistency, reduce confusion, and ensure alignment with current standards and practices.

The following summarizes the substantive changes from the prior 2025 edition. There are several other important changes not listed here; therefore, it is important to review relevant sections of the manual before conducting any Range and Target Activities program.

- **Brand Alignment:** Language throughout the manual has been updated to reflect current Scouting America branding and terminology.
- **Participant Terminology:** References to “shooter” have been replaced with “participant” when referring to individuals engaged in range and target activities, ensuring consistent and inclusive language across the program.
- **Rifle Safety Briefing Clarification:** The former “30-minute rifle briefing” has been retitled “Scouting America Rifle Safety Briefing.” This change clarifies that the briefing content is required, while eliminating the implication that the briefing must be a fixed duration.
- **Shotgun Safety Briefing Clarification:** The former “30-minute shotgun briefing” has been retitled “Scouting America Shotgun Safety Briefing,” for the same purpose of clarifying required content without a prescribed time length.
- **Range Safety Officer Ratios:** Range Safety Officer (RSO) ratios have been added or clarified to better define supervision expectations and promote consistent application across programs.
- **Multigun Airsoft Program Sunset:** The multigun airsoft program has been discontinued, as it could not be conducted in alignment with the current Range and Target Activities Program requirements.
- **Atlatl Program Addition:** Atlatl has been added as an approved program for Scouting America camps, as defined in NCAP Standard SA-001. This approval applies to council-operated camp programs and does not extend to unit-level activities.
- **Appendix Updates:** Selected appendices have been updated to reflect current policy references and available resources.

- **Training Partner Alignment:** Language related to archery has been updated to align with terminology and standards used by Scouting America's training partner, USA Archery.

These updates are intended to improve clarity, consistency, and alignment across Scouting America's range and target activities while maintaining a strong focus on safety and program quality. Councils, camps, and program leaders should review the updated manual to ensure compliance with current requirements.