

**NCAC Shooting Sports Guidelines**

**January 2023 Update**

Your best resources for shooting sports questions and guidance are the NCAC Shooting Sports Committee, your District representative to that committee, and BSA national standards. **This handout is a simplified overview, so please see current requirements!**  Many additional details are in our reference guide: "NCAC – So You Want to Hold a Scouting Shooting Sports Activity?" reference which also includes a suggested **youth permission slip** for these activities and "permission to treat" authorization.

**Websites**: <https://www.ncacbsa.org/shooting-sports/> (Includes POCs)

NCAC Shooting Sports Committee: <https://www.ncacbsa.org/shooting-sports/>

BSA Shooting Sports Page:

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/shooting-sports/>

**REMINDER!** All shooting activities must be done in accordance with the BSA policies, and local and national laws. Volunteers, units, chartered organizations, and local councils are jeopardizing insurance coverage and may incur legal liability for themselves and their organization by engaging in unauthorized activities. Be aware of and follow the shooting sports policies, qualified supervision requirements, and BSA's list of prohibited activities, and the Sweet 16 of Safety.

**Follow current Policies**:

https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/guidelines-policies/

Guide to Safe Scouting: https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/

BSA Shooting Sports Guidelines, Shooting Sports Manual 2022:

https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/shooting-sports

**Age Appropriate Activities**

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-685.pdf

For Cub Scouts, Archery, BB gun shooting, and slingshot shooting are restricted to district council activities only, never a den or pack activity. Lions are allowed in district or council run archery and slingshot activities only.

**Qualified Supervision**

All shooting ranges must be supervised by a qualified adults at least 18 years of age and meet the minimum qualification requirements. **Merit Badge Counselors must ensure qualified and certified supervision according to Guide to Safe Scouting standards in order to run any shooting activity (rifle, shotgun, archery) under BSA rules and approval of all shooting activities by NCAC Shooting Sports Committee.** Generally this means certification by USA Archery for Archery sports, and NRA Certified Instructor & RSOs for Rifle, Pistol or Shotgun including muzzle loading. See BSA Guide to Advancement 7.0.1.1 Qualifications of Merit Badge Counselors. Certifications and Youth Protection Training must be current and credentials should be present and reviewed.

https://www.scouting.org/resources/guide-to-advancement/the-merit-badge-program/

**Age & Supervision Summary (Instructor to Scout shooter ratio)**

Council & District Activities & Webelos Resident Camp ONLY:

- Sling Shot: Lion+. BB Range Master or NRA Rifle (1:1 cubs, 1:4 older scouts)

- Cub Archery: Lion+. Archery RM or USA Archery Level 1+ (1:8)

- Cub BB: Tiger+. BB RM or NRA Rifle (1:8)

- Air Rifle/Pellet: Webelos+. NRA Rifle. (1:8 Scouts & 1 NRA RSO)

- Catapults: Cub program run by Range Master+. (Soft projectile, tennis ball sized or smaller per G2SS & Prohibited Activities List)

**At BSA or Approved Range & Activity SSC Authorized with Safety Briefing:**

- **Archery MB & Archery Shooting**: Scouts BSA+. USA Archery Level 1+ (1:8)

- **Rifle MB & Bolt Action .22**: Scouts BSA+. NRA Rifle cert & 1 NRA RSO; 30 Min Rifle Orientation+; bolt action .22, BB/air rifle, muzzleloading rifle (no flintlock) (1:8)

Airsoft, Chalkball: Scouts BSA+. NRA Rifle cert & 1 NRA RSO (*Airsoft also requires SSC approved additions);* 30 Min Orientation+.

- **Shotgun MB & Shotgun Shooting**: Scouts BSA+. NRA Shotgun cert & 1 NRA RSO; 30 Min Shotgun Orientation+; (NRA First Steps Shotgun if competition). (1:1 shooting, 1:6 instruction & 1 NRA RSO).

- **Tomahawk/Knife**: Scouts BSA+. NRA certified instructor or RSO, or USAA instructor WITH APPROPRIATE EXPERIENCE. Safety and throwing briefing required. (1:4).

**Sea Scouts, Venturing @ BSA or Approved Range & Activity Authorized:**

- **Centerfire Rifle/Large Bore/Semi-Auto**: NRA Rifle cert & 1 NRA RSO; 30 Min Rifle Orientation+ or more (NRA First Steps Rifle if competition). (1:8)

- **Pistols**: NRA Pistol cert & 1 NRA RSO; 30 Min Pistol Orientation+ (NRA First Steps Pistol if competition). (1:2 shooting, 1:6 instruction)

- **Hunting**: Only during approved Venturing program with approvals and appropriate training and licensing.

**Prohibited activities** includes: Paintball, Laser Tag, Anvil Shooting, Flintlocks, Exploding Targets, blow guns, boomerang, ballista, homemade items like potato or tennis ball cannons, throwing shovels or spikes or stars, inappropriate ammo such as pumpkins and tracer & hard slingshot ammo, cannons (except Council ceremonies), crossbows (except for Summit Bechtel Reserve), reloaded ammunition (except at Philmont), spears including atlatl or pole or spear gun (except at Philmont), any Class III arms.

**Safe Location**

The NCAC Shooting Sports Committee maintains a list of shooting ranges, and their locations and contact points, within the boundaries of the council and nearby States on their website "Where to Shoot – NCAC BSA". If your unit or district plans to shoot on property that is not on BSA or does not have an established shooting range you must receive prior permission to use the property from the council shooting sports committee by submitting BSA form 430-065 "Private Property Approval for Shooting Sports" and request to have the property inspection by a NRA Chief RSO from shooting sports committee. There should be Range Operating Procedures for RSO to enforce. A standard set is available from the Shooting Sports Committee. https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/Shooting%20Sports/430-065\_WB.pdf

**Where to Shoot**

NCAC SSC has a reviewed Location List available on their website.

Range Procedure Example: https://public.3.basecamp.com/p/3j4ZYLzMEzsccisz8UxM1qGi

**Appropriate Equipment**

Each age level and activity has specific equipment restrictions. Verify the requirements for your specific event in the BSA Shooting Sports Manual or BSA Range Inspection standards or ask the Shooting Sports Committee.

**Activity Approvals**:

**The NCAC Shooting Sports Committee must review and approve of any unit or District level shooting sports activities to ensure standards, planning, and qualified supervision are sufficient. Please fill in the review and approval form "NCAC SSC Shooting Sports Event Request" and send it to the committee chairman and vice-chair for administration for review and approval. Unapproved activities may violate charter and liability coverage. See the "NCAC – So You Want to Hold a Scouting Shooting Sports Activity?" on the committee website for more detailed information.**

**Special Parental Permission**!

Pistol shooting. The Federal Youth Handgun Act requires a special parental/guardian permission slip specifically stating that the minor has permission to possess and use a handgun as part of their youth program and this form must be in the youth’s possession at all times while participating in the activity. Note: this only applies to Venturers, Sea Scouts and Explorers, since the other programs are prohibited from shooting pistols.

**(NEED UPDATED FORM LINK)**

Hunting Activities: Only Venturers, Sea Scouts or Explorers may participate in hunting activities after they complete a hunter safety course from the state they will be hunting in, and follow all the state and federal hunting regulations for the state where they will be hunting.