

# INSTRUCTIONAL RIFLE SHOOTING 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 Rifle Instructor and NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO).

In this publication, you will find youth requirements, training requirements for adults who are facilitating a safe handling Rifle instruction program for youth.

### PROGRAM GUIDELINES

#### YOUTH REQUIREMENTS

Registered Boy Scouts, Venturers or Sea Scouts and youth who are age appropriate participating in a Rifle 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 as an NRA Instructor
3. RSO must have current certification as an 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 SHOOTING SPORTS PROGRAM

**Purpose.** Teach youth the Knowledge, Skill and Attitude (KSA) of safe handling of a Rifle by participation in a formal Rifle shooting curriculum.

**Examples.** Examples of instructional programs are the Boy Scout Rifle Shooting Merit Badge, Venturing Ranger Award and Sea Scout Shooting Sports Medal. Shooting programs could be held at a BSA facility, public, private, commercial or club range.

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

🍏 **Boy Scouts.** .22 caliber rimfire, bolt-action rifle. Either a breech-loading, single-shot, bolt-action or a repeater bolt action with a box magazine can be used. Tubular or high-capacity magazines are not allowed. If magazines are used, the range commands must include "magazines out after firing all rounds" to ensure the firing line is safe after all shots are fired. This now means a Scout can load more than one round directly into the box magazine to shoot. The trigger pull will be 3 pounds or greater.

Lever action and tubular magazine rifles are approved for use in the Cowboy Action Program ONLY.

🍏 **Venturers and Sea Scouts.** Any cartridge-firing rifle with open, scope, or dot sights

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

**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](#).

**Instruction for Boy Scouts:** NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting Course (eight hours), Rifle Merit Badge. Taught only by an NRA Rifle Instructor.

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

**Required for Boy Scouts:** BSA Rifle Safety Briefing in this document.

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

**Instruction References:** Boy Scout Rifle Merit Badge Pamphlet; [Download Sea Scout Shooting Sports Requirements](#); [Download Ranger Award Requirements](#)

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

**Range supervision.** A certified NRA Range Safety Officer is to directly supervise all live fire on the range. Additionally a currently certified NRA Rifle Instructor must provide support to the shooters during live fire. These must be two separate individuals.

**Ratio.** One NRA Range Safety Officer (1:8) must be present for each group consisting of a maximum of eight shooters. One NRA certified Rifle Instructor per eight active (1:8) shooters is required when loading and firing a Rifle.

**Course: Boy Scout Merit Badge:** Using a .22 caliber rimfire rifle and shooting from a bench rest or supported prone position at 50 feet, fire five groups (three shots per group) that can be covered by a quarter.

**Course for Sea Scouts and Venturing:** [Download Sea Scout Shooting Sports Requirements](#); [Download Ranger Award Requirements](#)

NRA Basic Rifle Shooting Course: Shooting activities are described in the course lesson plans. NRA Winchester Qualification Program: Use this program to recognize success as shooters progress.

### Sample 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."
- "Remove magazines"



**BEFORE YOUTH ARRIVE AT THE PROGRAM AREA**

All Rifles, ammunition, and targets are provisioned in sufficient quantity to run the program for all shooters without interruption during non-program times by maintenance and support personnel.

**ON THE RANGE**

- Eye and ear protection should be cleaned between each shooter.
- Range staff will assist the NRA RSO and Instructor by preparing rifles, 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 dB (decibel) or above.**

**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.

**RANGE INSPECTION CHECKLIST**

Inspected by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

J = Yes	Date
___ 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	_____
___ Rifle racks available	_____
___ Empty trash receptacles available	_____
___ Lockable storage	_____
___ Throwers available and loaded	_____
___ Eye and ear protection available	_____
___ Hand washing Station Available	_____

## Range Safety Briefing - Rifle

- No LIVE Ammunition in the classroom!
- To provide beginning shooters with Knowledge, Skill and Attitude (KSA) necessary to shoot a Rifle 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 Rifle
- Demonstrate Rifle operation
  - o Loading dummy rounds
  - o Cocking
  - o Dry Fire
  - o Unloading
- Shooting Fundamentals
  - Dominant Eye
  - Position
  - Shooting Fundamentals
    1. Aiming
    2. Hold Control
    3. Breath Control
    4. Trigger Control
    5. Follow-through
- 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
  - o Proper hygiene
  - o Clean up after shooting
  
- 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."
  - "Remove magazines"

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

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