

Cub Scout Slingshot Adventure Lesson Plan

Purpose

This lesson plan is provided for rangemasters to teach the Slingshot Adventure at a council-sponsored long-term camp, short-term camp, day camp or one day activity. The Slingshot Adventures are available for each Cub Scout rank.

Units are not authorized to hold range and target activities at the den or pack level. The information in this lesson plan is not meant to replace any information in the [National Shooting Sports Manual](#) or the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#).

This lesson plan was developed as a guide for a 5-session day camp or twilight camp experience with (5) 45-minute sessions. The rangemaster may adjust this plan to meet the event's program schedule if the requirements are met as written.

The Slingshot Adventure is an ideal range activity for day camps lasting less than 5 days or even one day events. Suggestions for other events and mixed age dens are at the end of this lesson plan.

Lion Scouts and Tiger Scouts must have their adult partner with them while at the slingshot range.

NOTE: When the word 'demonstrate' is used in a requirement, a simple demonstration made by the Cub Scout showing their understanding will serve as meeting that requirement. Where the word 'discover' is used in a requirement, explanation accompanied by visual aids will serve as meeting that requirement. When appropriate, some demonstrations/discussions can be held away from the firing line. Each Cub Scout should do their best based on their physical abilities.

Requirements for ALL ranks

- 1) Identify and wear appropriate safety gear. (Lions and Tigers: with the help of their adult partner.)
- 2) Recite the safety rules for using a slingshot. (Lions and Tigers: with the help of their adult partner)
- 3) Demonstrate proper range commands. (Lions and Tigers: with the help of their adult partner. Additionally, Webelos and Arrow of Light will "Demonstrate proper range commands and explain them to an adult or to another Scout")
- 4) Explore the parts of a slingshot and their proper usage. (Lions and Tigers: with the help of their adult partner)
- 5) Discover the types of ammunition that may be used and types that may not be used. (Lions and Tigers: with the help of their adult partner)

- 6) Bear, Webelos, Arrow of Light - Discover the types of targets that may be used and types that may not be used. (Note: not required for Lion, Tiger, or Wolf but the information may be presented)
- 7) Shooting Requirements:

Lion	Shoot 2 shots at a target. Repeat and do your best to improve your score. Shoot at least 4 shots.
Tiger	Shoot 3 shots at a target. Repeat and do your best to improve your score. Shoot at least 6 shots.
Wolf	Shoot 5 shots at a target. Repeat and do your best to improve your score. Shoot at least 10 shots.
Bear	Shoot 5 shots at a target. Repeat twice and do your best to improve your score each time. Shoot at least 15 shots.
Webelos	Shoot 5 shots at a target. Repeat twice and do your best to improve your score each time. Shoot at least 15 shots.
AOL	Shoot 5 shots at a target. Repeat three times and do your best to improve your score each time. Shoot at least 20 shots.

- 8) Discuss how to put away and properly store your slingshot and shooting equipment after use. (For Lion, Tiger, and Wolf, this is the 7th requirement; however, throughout this plan this requirement will be called Requirement 8.)

Session 1 (45 minutes)

Preparation & materials needed

- Safety rules posters
- Appropriate safety equipment as specified in the National Shooting Sports Manual
- Appropriate slingshot equipment as specified in the National Shooting Sports Manual
- Approved targets

Topic: Gear & Safety

It is important that Cub Scouts learn the importance of safety rules while participating in range and target activities and the need for appropriate safety gear.

- Participants and range staff must wear eye protection (safety glasses) when the slingshot range is used.

To prepare the Cub Scouts for being on the shooting line, please do the following:

- Identify and demonstrate how to properly wear the safety equipment. (Requirement 1)
- Explain the range safety rules and range commands. It is important that the Rangemaster gets feedback from the group to ensure complete understanding of the safety rules and range commands. Lions and Tigers will have assistance from their adult partner. Note: Webelos and Arrow Light have an added requirement to explain range commands to an adult or another Scout. (Requirements 2-3)
- Discuss the types of ammunition that may and may not be used. (Requirement 5)
- Discuss the types of targets that may and may not be used. This is not required for Lion, Tiger, or Wolf, but is useful information for them to have. (Requirement 6 for Bear, Webelos and Arrow of Light)

Move the group to the shooting line to do the following:

- Show and explain the main parts of the shooting equipment and how to safely use. (Requirement 4)
- Demonstrate proper stance and shooting techniques. Allow Cub Scouts to shoot for the remaining time in the session. (Requirement 7)

Requirements 1-6 (plus requirement 7 depending on the participant's den level and time allotted) should be complete after this session.

Note: This session is important because it establishes the basis for range safety and understanding range commands, but it is equally important that the Cub Scouts get to shoot before leaving the session.

Session 2 (45 minutes)

Preparation & materials needed

- Safety rules posters
- Appropriate safety equipment as specified in the National Shooting Sports Manual
- Appropriate slingshot equipment as specified in the National Shooting Sports Manual
- Approved targets

Topic: Range activity

Review the range safety rules and range commands. To engage the Cub Scouts, ask them to explain the rules and range commands in their own words (rather than telling them).

- Cub Scouts shoot and attempt to complete requirement 7.
- Discuss how to put away and properly store your slingshot and shooting equipment after use. (Requirement 8)

Requirements 7-8 should be complete after this session.

Session 3 (45 minutes)

Preparation & materials needed

- Safety rules posters
- Appropriate safety equipment as specified in the National Shooting Sports Manual
- Appropriate slingshot equipment as specified in the National Shooting Sports Manual
- Approved targets

Topic: Range activity

Review the range safety rules and range commands. To engage the Cub Scouts, ask them to explain the rules and range commands in their own words (rather than telling them).

- Cub Scouts continue to shoot. If requirement 7 was not completed during the previous session, those Cub Scouts may continue working on that requirement.
- If requirement 7 was completed during the previous session, Scouts should be encouraged to enjoy their time on the range by participating in an open shoot or may attempt a more difficult course of fire (i.e., reactive targets such as cow bells or spinning targets, smaller targets, more distant targets).

Session 4 (45 minutes)

Preparation & materials needed

- Safety rules posters
- Appropriate safety equipment as specified in the National Shooting Sports Manual
- Appropriate slingshot equipment as specified in the National Shooting Sports Manual
- Approved targets

Topic: Range activity

Review the range safety rules and range commands. To engage the Cub Scouts, ask them to explain the rules and range commands in their own words (rather than telling them).

- Cub Scouts continue to shoot. If requirement 7 was not completed during the previous session, those Cub Scouts may continue working on that requirement.
- If requirement 7 was completed during the previous session, Scouts should be encouraged to enjoy their time on the range by participating in an open shoot or may attempt a more difficult course of fire (i.e., reactive targets such as cow bells or spinning targets, smaller targets, more distant targets).

Session 5 (45 minutes)

Preparation & materials needed

- Safety rules posters
- Appropriate safety equipment as specified in the National Shooting Sports Manual
- Appropriate slingshot equipment as specified in the National Shooting Sports Manual
- Approved targets

Topic: Range activity

Review the range safety rules and range commands. To engage the Cub Scouts, ask them to explain the rules and range commands in their own words (rather than telling them).

- Cub Scouts continue to shoot. If requirement 7 was not completed during the previous session, those Cub Scouts may continue working on that requirement.
- If requirement 7 was completed during the previous session, Scouts should be encouraged to enjoy their time on the range by participating in an open shoot or may attempt a more difficult course of fire (i.e., reactive targets such as cow bells or spinning targets, smaller targets, more distant targets).

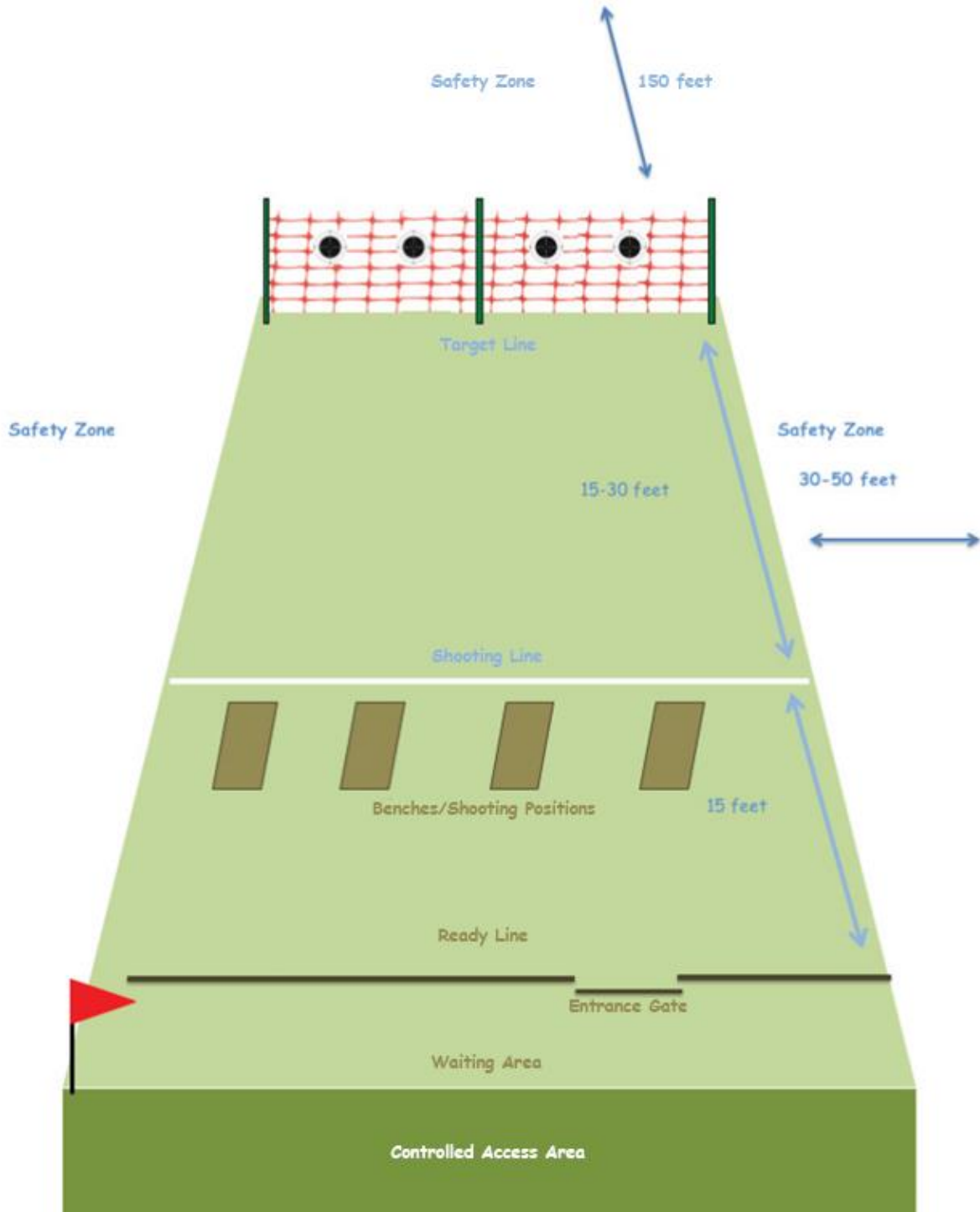
Range requirements

Slingshot range set-up

Slingshot program may utilize an approved BB gun or an approved archery range.

- 1) Select the orientation of the range
 - a. Avoid shooting into the sun by facing North
 - b. The ground should be flat and free of obstacles
 - c. Look for a natural backstop such as a berm to stop BB's, or a ballistic cloth or double layer, heavy duty tarp capable of stopping a bb as a trap. If there is no berm, provide a minimum of 195 yards of open area behind the targets
 - d. The safety zone on the side should be 30-50 feet.
- 2) Place range and safety lines
 - a. Rope, eco-friendly spray paint or chalk are ways to lay down the range lines outdoors. Follow the guidelines illustrated in the *National Shooting Sports Manual*.
 - b. Shooting Line – The shooting line is 15 to 30 feet from the target line depending on the skill level of the participants.
 - c. Waiting Line – Shooters stand behind the waiting line before and after shooting their arrows. It is meant to act as a safety area between the class and the shooting line. The waiting line is placed 15 feet behind the shooting line.
OPTIONAL: Controlled Access/Spectator Line – Anyone who wants to watch participants shoot can gather behind this line. This line needs to be placed far enough behind the waiting line to prevent distraction from the spectators (at minimum 15 feet)
- 3) Set-up targets
 - a. Place targets in front of the natural berm. If a natural berm is not available, place targets in a wide-open space with a minimum safety zone of 150 feet behind the targets.
 - b. Evenly space targets in front of the berm. Space between targets is dependent on placement of shooting positions.
 - c. One method of hanging targets is to put up posts to hold “snow fence.” Attach the snow fence to the posts. Targets can be attached to the snow fence with clothes pins.
 - d. A temporary target holder can be made using yard signs with wire ground stands.
- 4) Place the equipment
 - a. Eye protection should be available in the waiting area. All participants on the range must wear eye protection.
 - b. Slingshots – May be on the top of the bench if using the bench rest position, or on the mat used for the prone positions. If shooters are shooting from the standing position, there should be some type of stand where the slingshots may be placed when not in use.
 - c. Ammunition – Should be stored in a secure location between the shooting line and the ready line under the supervision of the rangemaster.

Outdoor Range Layout: Wide Open Space



Sample range safety poster



GENERAL SHOOTING RANGE RULES

1. This range may be opened only by a qualified range master.
2. All commands issued by the range master must be obeyed immediately.
3. Stay behind the firing line. Do not straddle the firing line.
4. Do not pick up a gun, bow, arrow, or slingshot unless told to by the range master.
5. Absolutely no running on the range.
6. No horseplay or unnecessary talking on the range.
7. If in doubt about the rules, ask your leader or range master for advice or help.

Suggestions

Based on the format of your event, there might not be enough time in the program schedule to utilize 5 sessions to complete the Slingshot Adventure. You may also have dens with mixed ages and levels of knowledge and/or ability. There are times when a Cub Scout can attend only a few days of a day camp, so adjustments will need to be made.

Take the time to read the requirements, evaluate the number and the length of the sessions the event will have so you can determine what should be presented in the time allotted.

It is possible the adventure could be completed within 2 sessions or less depending on your event's program design:

- Length of each session
- Age of participants
- Experience level of the participants
- Number of participants in each den

Mixed-aged dens

When dealing with dens of mixed ages, consider moving the more experienced participants (the older Scouts who have attended a range activity previously) to the shooting line after the safety briefing to begin their course of fire. The less experienced Scouts can then spend time learning range commands, how to use the safety equipment and how to use the slingshot equipment. This same method may be applied with larger groups. You may be required to recruit additional trained staff to maintain range supervision ratios.

Partial completion of the requirements

Depending on the type of event (i.e., one-day event) it is possible the adventure requirements may not be completed in their entirety. If this is the case, each participant should be given a list of the requirements completed so that they can bring it to the next council-sponsored event they attend.