



Safety Moment – Shooting Sports Safety

Teach your troop how to safely shoot rifles, shotguns, and other guns:

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and the National Rifle Association (NRA) have worked together to develop a strong shooting sports program. Included in the program are the *Rifle Shooting* merit badge and the *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge. These badges may be earned at summer camps or at established private ranges authorized by the Great Salt Lake Council. Individual units may also arrange to use the range at Camp Tracy for a nominal fee. All live fire activities must be supervised by an NRA certified Range Safety Officer (RSO) and taught by an NRA Instructor. There are many NRA trained men and women in the Council who are willing and available to work with units and youth.

Too often, individual units want to go shooting with whatever guns they have at whatever location they think is safe. In order to be eligible for BSA liability insurance, there are requirements which must be met regarding the types of firearms and the appropriate places to shoot. Leaders are responsible to teach safety and to follow BSA policies.

The Great Salt Lake Council has been a pilot program for several years in Cowboy Action Shooting in cooperation with SASS (Single Action Shooting Society). BSA National and the NRA have worked with the Council to insure that Venture Scouts have a safe and FUN-shooting experience with handguns, rifles, shotguns, and muzzle loading firearms at these annual Cowboy Action Shoot events.

About the Shooting Merit Badges

Youth generally love to shoot firearms and when properly instructed and supervised, this activity can become a lifelong hobby or passion. Safety in shooting sports is most important, but having FUN is a close second. Boys may shoot bolt-action .22 caliber rifles, muzzle loading rifles, or air guns to earn the Rifle Shooting merit badge. Shotguns may be any gauge or action, however 12 gauge is recommended to earn the Shotgun Shooting merit badge. To earn the merit badge, marksmanship is needed, as well as a knowledge of gun safety, gun laws, gun cleaning and maintenance. Emphasis is placed on Knowledge, Skill, and Attitude.



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Great Salt Lake Council

Roundtable Shooting Sports Spotlight

Firearms Safety and Training

Shooting Sports is a key activity to recruiting and retaining boys in the BSA programs. Boys want to shoot and will follow the policies and procedures to learn safety and marksmanship at all ages and levels. Adult leaders need to set the proper example in following all the rules especially the safety rules.

NRA Training and Certification

Go to:

<https://www.saltlakescouts.org/nra-instructors>

Five Levels of Shooting

see BSA National Shooting Sports Manual at:

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/pdf/30931_WB.pdf

Firearms

Rifles Shotguns Pistols Muzzleloading Firearms

see BSA National Shooting Sports Manual at:

http://www.scouting.org/filestore/Outdoor%20Program/pdf/30931_WB.pdf

Merit Badges

See the Rifle Shooting or Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge Booklets. Requirements at:

<http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/Home/OutdoorProgram/ShootingSports.aspx>

Insurance

Individuals who are teaching youth and adults to use firearms should have reasonable insurance coverage either through their own homeowners policies or separate insurance coverage. Most home insurance companies offer additional umbrella policies. The NRA offers insurance specifically for NRA instructors and RSOs.

Do:

File a BSA Tour Plan with the Council for any activity involving any firearms regardless of location.
Go to an established public or private range for any live fire.
Use adequate eye and ear protection.
Have the proper ratio of NRA personnel and youth.
Have signed permission slips from both parents for Venturing Scouts shooting handguns.
Follow the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Public Ranges OR Follow the Council SOP for Council Ranges.

Don't:

Do NOT use any fully automatic firearms.
Do NOT set up a range in the desert or at someone's farm.
Do NOT circumvent any rules.

Archery

Minimum of Level One Instructor training is recommended for Archery. Training is available through NADA or USA Archery. Locally contact Salt Lake Archery.

Council Shooting Sports Committee

Meets the third Wednesday of each month at the Council Service Center at 7 PM

District Shooting Sports Committee

Every District should have a Committee which Plans and Conducts District Shooting Sports Events on a regular basis, monthly if possible and trains youth to shoot safely. Should arrange to have the Council Shooting Sports Committee give the half hour shooting sports presentation at Round Table.

Other Shooting Activities

See the BSA National Shooting Sports Manual for other shooting activities which are permitted or not. A safe range must be provided for all shooting activities such as wrist rockets, catapults, or rockets. Cannons or artillery may not be used by any units in BSA.

Resources

May be updated at any time so check them before using.

National Shooting Sports Manual Website

<http://scouting.org/sitecore/content/Home/OutdoorProgram/ShootingSports.aspx>

Guide to Safe Scouting

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/34416.pdf>

Outdoor Program Committee Guide

<http://scouting.org/sitecore/content/Home/OutdoorProgram/Camping.aspx>

Camp Property and Program Management

<http://www.ncsbsa.org/resources/general/Camp%20Program%20&%20Property%20Mgt.pdf>

A list of Approved Private Property Ranges is available through the Council Shooting Sports Committee.