

# MERIT BADGE SERIES



# SHOTGUN SHOOTING



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®



STEM-Based

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*"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"*



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# Requirements

1. Do the following:
  - a. Explain why BB and pellet air guns must always be treated with the same respect as firearms.
  - b. Describe how you would react if a friend visiting your home asked to see your or your family's firearm(s).
  - c. Explain the need for and use and types of eye and hearing protection.
  - d. Explain the main points of the laws for owning and using guns in your community and state.
  - e. Explain how hunting is related to the wise use of renewable wildlife resources.
  - f. Successfully complete a state hunter education course, or obtain a copy of the hunting laws for your state, then do the following.
    - (1) Explain the main points of hunting laws in your state and give any special laws on the use of guns and ammunition, and
    - (2) List the kinds of wildlife that can be legally hunted in your state.
  - g. Explain to your counselor the proper hygienic guidelines used in shooting.
  - h. Identify and explain three shotgun sports. Identify places in your community where you could shoot these sports and explain how you can join or be a part of shooting sports activities.
  - i. Give your counselor a list of sources that you could contact for information on firearms and their use.

2. Do ONE of the following options:

### **OPTION A—SHOTGUN SHOOTING**

#### **(Modern Shotshell Type)**

- a. Identify the principal parts of a shotgun, action types, and how they function.
- b. Identify and demonstrate the rules for safely handling a shotgun.
- c. Identify the parts of a shotgun shell and their functions.
- d. Identify the various gauges of shotguns. Explain which one you would pick for use and why.
- e. Identify and explain the fundamentals of safely shooting a shotgun. Explain what a misfire, hangfire, and squib fire are, and explain the procedures to follow in response to each.
- f. Identify and explain each rule for safely shooting a shotgun.
- g. Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to safely shoot moving targets, using the fundamentals of shotgun shooting.
- h. Identify the materials needed to clean a shotgun.
  - i. Demonstrate how to clean a shotgun properly and safely.
  - j. Discuss what points you would consider in selecting a shotgun.
- k. Shooting score required—Hit at least 12 out of 25 targets (48 percent) in two 25-target groups. The two groups need not be shot in consecutive order. A minimum of 50 shots must be fired.

Shooting skill rules:

- Targets may be thrown by a hand trap, manual mechanical trap, or on any trap or skeet field. Note: If using a hand trap or manual mechanical trap, the trap operator should be at least 5 feet to the right and 3 feet to the rear of the shooter. If throwing left-handed with a hand trap, the trap operator should be at least 5 feet to the left and 3 feet to the rear of the shooter.

- All targets should be thrown at a reasonable speed and in the same direction.
- Targets should be generally thrown so as to climb in the air after leaving the trap.
- Scores may be fired at any time, either in formal competition or in practice.
- Any gauge shotgun not exceeding 12 gauge may be used.
- Only commercially manufactured ammunition may be used. Reloads may not be used in BSA shooting sports programs.
- Shooters must shoot in rounds of 25. Rounds need not be shot continuously or on the same day (the term “round” refers to a single series of 25 shots).
- If using a trap field, shoot station 3 with traps set to throw straightaway targets.
- If using a skeet field, shoot station 7 low house.

### **OPTION B—MUZZLELOADING SHOTGUN SHOOTING**

- a. Discuss a brief history of the development of the muzzleloading shotgun.
- b. Identify principal parts of percussion and flintlock shotguns and discuss how they function.
- c. Demonstrate and explain the rules of safely handling a muzzleloading shotgun.
- d. Identify the various grades of black powder and their proper and safe use.
- e. Discuss proper safety procedures pertaining to black powder use and storage.
- f. Discuss proper components of a load.
- g. Identify proper procedures and accessories used for safely loading a muzzleloading shotgun.

- h. Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to safely shoot a muzzleloading shotgun on a range, including range procedures. Explain what a misfire, hangfire, and squibfire are, and explain the procedures to follow in response to each.
- i. Shoot a moving target with a muzzleloading shotgun using the five fundamentals of firing the shot.
- j. Identify the materials needed to clean a muzzleloading shotgun properly and safely.
- k. Demonstrate how to clean to clear a muzzleloading shotgun's failure to fire and explain or demonstrate proper correction procedures.
- l. Identify the causes of a muzzleloading shotgun's failure to fire and explain or demonstrate proper preventive procedures.
- m. Discuss what points you would consider in selecting a muzzleloading shotgun.
- n. Shooting score required—Hit at least 5 out of 15 targets in each of two 15-target groups. The two groups need not be shot in consecutive order. A minimum of 30 shots must be fired. Shooting skill rules:
  - Targets may be thrown by a hand trap, manual mechanical trap, or on any trap or skeet field. Note: If using a hand trap or manual mechanical trap, the trap operator should be at least 5 feet to the right and 3 feet to the rear of the shooter. If throwing left-handed with a hand trap, the trap operator should be at least 5 feet to the left and 3 feet to the rear of the shooter.
  - All targets should be thrown at a reasonable speed and in the same direction.
  - Targets should be generally thrown so as to climb in the air after leaving the trap.
  - Scores may be fired at any time, either in formal competition or in practice.

- Any gauge shotgun not exceeding 10 gauge may be used.
- Standard clay targets customarily used for trap and skeet are to be used.
- On a standard trap field, the shooter should be positioned 8 yards behind the trap house. The trap should be set to throw only straightaway targets.
- On a skeet field, use station 7 low house.



# Shotgun Shooting Resources

## Scouting Literature

*Environmental Science, Fish and Wildlife Management*, and *Rifle Shooting* merit badge pamphlets; *Guide to Safe Scouting: National Shooting Sports Manual* (Appendix 1).

Visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website (with your parent's permission) at <http://www.scoutstuff.org> for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

## Books

Bridges, Toby. *Muzzleloading*. Creative Publishing, 1997.

Brister, Bob. *Shotgunning: The Art and the Science*. Winchester Press, 1977.

Galan, J. I. *Airgun Digest*. DBI Books, 1995.

Henderson, David R. *Gunsmithing Shotguns: A Basic Guide to Care and Repair*. Lyons Press, 2003.

Malloy, John. *Complete Guide to Guns and Shooting*. DBI Books, 1995.

McIntosh, Michael. *Shotguns and Shooting: A Celebration of the Gun*. Countrysport Press, 1995.

Meyer, Jerry. *The Clay Target Handbook*. Lyons Press, 1995.

Migdalski, Tom. *The Complete Book of Shotgunning Games*. McGraw-Hill, 1998.

Morrow, Tom. *The Orvis Field Guide to Shotgun Care and Maintenance*. Willow Creek Press, 2000.

Re, Lois. *Black's Wing and Clay: The Complete Shotgunner's Guide to Equipment, Instruction, and Destinations*. Masters Press, 1999.

Russell, James. *Precision Shooting: The Trapshooter's Bible for the Advanced Trapshooter and Those Who Strive to Be*. James Russell, 1998.

———. *Trapshooting Secrets*. James Russell, 1999.

## Organizations and Websites

### Alco Target Company

Toll-free telephone: 888-258-4814

Website: <http://www.alcotarget.com>

### Amateur Trapshooting Association

Telephone: 618-449-2224

Website: <http://www.shootata.com>



**American Target Company**

Toll-free telephone: 877-733-0433  
Website:  
<http://www.americantargetcompany.com>

**Discover the Outdoors:  
Shooting Sports**

Website: <http://www.dto.com/shooting>

**Log Cabin Shop**

Website: <http://www.logcabinshop.com>

**Michaels of Oregon**

Website:  
<http://www.michaels-oregon.com>

**National Rifle Association  
of America**

Toll-free telephone: 800-672-3888  
Website: <http://home.nra.org>

**National Shooting  
Sports Foundation**

Telephone: 203-426-1320  
Website: <http://www.nssf.org>

**National Skeet Shooting Association  
National Sporting Clays Association**

Toll-free telephone: 800-877-5338  
Website: <http://www.nssa-nsca.com>

**National Target Company**

Toll-free telephone: 800-827-7060  
Website:  
<http://www.nationaltarget.com>

**Remington Arms Company**

Toll-free telephone: 800-243-9700  
Website: <http://www.remington.com>

**Shotgun News Magazine**

Website: <http://www.shotgunnews.com>

**Shotgun Sports Magazine**

Telephone: 530-889-2220  
Website:  
<http://www.shotgunsportsmagazine.com>

**Target Barn Inc.**

Telephone: 419-829-2242  
Website: <http://www.targetbarn.com>

**The Target Shop**

Telephone: 856-358-5140  
Website:  
<http://www.thetargetshop.com>

**Trapshooters.com**

Website: <http://www.trapshooters.com>

**U.S. Target Inc.**

Toll-free telephone: 800-746-6836  
Website:  
<http://www.ustargetonline.com>

**USA Shooting**

Telephone: 719-866-4670  
Website: <http://www.usashooting.com>

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