

SCOUTING PISTOL & SAFETY MARKSMANSHIP



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®



NRA

AN OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The Boy Scouts of America is proud to partner with the National Rifle Association to provide youth with a beginner pistol experience that focuses on the safe and responsible use of firearms. This program is only for use in council- or district-level camps and activities. Units may not conduct this activity.

This guide is intended to provide councils and districts with an overview of the requirements for running the Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship program. In this publication, you will find youth requirements, training requirements for adults who are providing the program, and sample budgets for running this program in camp and weekend program venues.



YOUTH REQUIREMENTS

- Boy Scouts and Venturers who are over the age of 14, or are 13 and have completed the eighth grade, may participate in this activity.
- All youth participants are required to have written permission from their parent or guardian to fire a handgun before they can take part in the program. A sample permission form is included at the end of this document. The council may also include this as part of the overall permissions for the camp or activity; however, it must clearly state that a child has the parent or guardian's permission to handle and fire a handgun.

ADULT SUPERVISION AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

BSA Youth Protection policies for two-deep leadership must be maintained at all times.

- The Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship program can be conducted only by NRA-certified pistol instructors.
- At least two of the instructors on the range must also hold a Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship program certification. In addition, one of these instructors must hold an NRA Range Safety Officer rating. This training focuses specifically on how to present the program to youth effectively and in a fun and engaging way. To find out more about this training, as well as when training is available, contact Curt Palmer, Scouting University program coach, at Curt.Palmer@scouting.org.



PROGRAM GUIDELINES



APPLICABLE LAWS

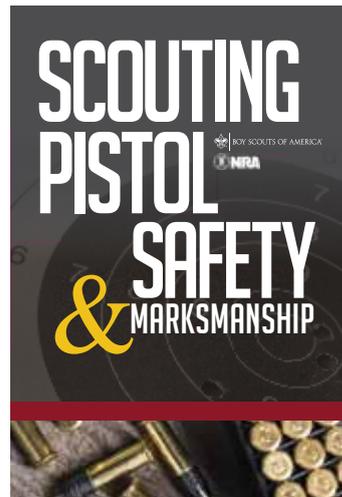
BSA safety policies generally run parallel or go beyond legal mandates. However, it is the camp or activity supervisor's responsibility to confirm and ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations or statutes related to youth handling and using a firearm.

BSA GUIDELINES

This is a Level 3 shooting sports activity and must follow all guidelines in the [*Boy Scouts of America National Shooting Sports Manual, No. 430-938*](#).

- The instructor-to-youth ratio when on the range working with the firearm is one NRA certified pistol instructor to every two youth, plus at least one NRA certified Range Safety Officer per every six youth. The RSO cannot function as an instructor.
- At least one of the NRA certified pistol instructors and one RSO per range must also hold a Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship program certification.
 - One or both of the instructors who hold the program certification will act as lead instructor for the classroom portion of this course. Other NRA certified pistol instructors who have not attended the additional program training can help show the firearm and work with youth on the demonstrations, but should not present the material to the class.
 - On the range, the RSO who holds the additional pistol program certification will be the lead RSO and should give the range commands. NRA certified pistol instructors will oversee the youth to ensure proper gun handling, dispense ammunition, provide coaching, and ensure that range safety commands given by the RSO are followed.

The instructors for the course will use the NRA FIRST Steps syllabus for this course. They should have received a syllabus as a part of their NRA pistol certification course. If they do not have a copy of the most updated syllabus, one can be obtained via the NRA training portal at www.nrainstructors.org.



Each youth should have a personal copy of *Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship*, which is available through their local Scout shop (SKU 622175). Youth will be asked to follow the instructor in this book and will be encouraged to take notes. This book will also act as a reference for safety and maintenance of the firearm after youth have completed the course.

Upon successful completion of the course, each youth will be given a pocket card (SKU 623012), which is available for council purchase through Supply.

Only .22-caliber handguns should be used in this program. Only one type of action should be demonstrated and used per program session.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

The FIRST Steps syllabus must be used and adhered to as written. No sections should be moved or changed. Youth range instruction should happen in the order assigned in the course syllabus.

The FIRST Steps program is designed to be a four-hour safety and marksmanship training course.

Before beginning this program, a program hazard analysis should be conducted for the range and this program as outlined in National Camp Accreditation Program standard PD-111 (www.scouting.org/ncap). The enterprise risk management committee for the council should review the analysis as per standard PD-112. The program hazard analysis instructions and template can be found at www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/680-009.pdf.

Your range's standard operating procedures should also be reviewed and updated to reflect the requirements for delivering this program. Sample range SOP's can be found in the *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual* under appendix 3 if you do not already have them for your range.



SAMPLE BUDGET

Below is a sample startup, one-year budget for a pistol range with six shooting positions, 12 youth per program session, and 10 program sessions per year (costs may vary by council).

ONE-TIME STARTUP COSTS		
NRA pistol certification	3 instructors and 1 RSO (\$275 each)	\$1,100
Handguns	8 pistols (\$225 each)	\$1,800
Total one-time costs:		\$2,900
ONGOING YEARLY ESTIMATED COSTS		
Books for youth	Estimate 120 youth per year (\$9.99 each)	\$1,200
Ammunition	.22 long rifle (\$.05 per round/300 rounds per youth)	\$1,800
Gun cleaning consumables		\$150
Program certification training—cost of travel and living	1 NRA pistol instructor and 1 RSO per range	\$350
Ear protection	18 ear muffs (\$16 each)	\$288
Ear protection	1 box of 100	\$33
Eye protection	18 (\$5 each)	\$90
Printing	Safe gun handling guidelines	\$50
Paper plates for targets	100 pack	\$6
Total estimated yearly costs:		\$3,967

Note: Budget above does not include camp staff salaries or range construction or improvements.

For questions or additional information, contact Curt Palmer at the National Service Center at Curt.Palmer@scouting.org.



SAMPLE PERMISSION FORM

Camp _____
Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship Program
Participation and Hold-Harmless Agreement

Camp _____ (_____ Council) is conducting a Scouting Pistol Safety and Marksmanship program. Scouts will be instructed how to handle, maintain, and shoot a pistol safely and be provided instruction to increase their marksmanship skills. Scouts will have classroom instruction and range instruction in which they will fire a pistol under the supervision of a trained Range Safety Officer and NRA certified pistol instructor. Scouts will be required to wear eye protection and ear protection at all times while on the range. Scouts are expected to abide by all safety rules and the instructions of the Range Safety Officer(s) and pistol 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 any and 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 FIRST Steps class taught at Camp _____.
2. Wear all safety gear at all times while on the range.
3. Follow all safety rules provided in the training class.
4. Follow the instructions of the Range Safety Officer(s) and pistol instructor(s).
5. Do not handle any pistols until instructed to do so by the pistol instructor(s).
6. Follow the instructions of the Range Safety Officer(s) at all times.
7. Is 14 years of age, or 13 and has completed the eighth grade, as of the start of the class and will be in full compliance with all local, state, and federal guidelines, including age restrictions and original equipment manufacturer standards.

Participant signature _____

Date: _____

Parent/guardian signature _____

Date: _____

Parent/guardian printed name _____

Date: _____

Home phone _____

Cell _____

Date: _____



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