

Shotgun Merit Badge Course Information

Hello!

My name is Bill Greenfield. I am the Range and Target Activities (formerly Shooting Sports) Program Director, here at Firestone Scout Reservation. Congratulations on enrolling in our Shotgun Merit Badge Course. We have assembled an experienced team of Shotgun Instructors that will provide you with the best possible opportunity to earn your Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge. Here is the key information you will need to help you maximize your chances of passing this course:

1) The Course: The Shotgun Merit Badge course is a BSA branded version of the NRA First Steps Basic Shotgun Course. Upon successful completion of this course, you will earn your BSA Shotgun Merit Badge. You will be taking both the classroom and live fire sections of this course at Firestone Scout Reservation. To earn this merit badge, you must successfully complete the Shotgun knowledge, safe handling, practical exercises, and shooting competency sections of the merit badge. You will be given the knowledge and taught the skills to pass this course. It will be up to you to have the positive attitude to put everything together to earn the merit badge.

2) Date/Time/Location: **Sunday, June 22nd, 2025**. Please arrive to check-in for the course by 7:45 AM. The course will begin at 8:00 AM sharp. The shooting for score portion of the course will end at 6:00 PM. Depending on your skill level, you may finish sooner. Our Address:

Firestone Scout Reservation
19001 Tonner Canyon Rd.
Brea, CA 92821

3) Cost: The cost of this course is \$65. This includes the instruction by our NRA Shotgun Instructors, use of our Shotguns, and 55 rds of ammunition. You will pay that when you register for this course. Many Scouts require extra ammunition to successfully shoot for score. If you need more ammunition to qualify, additional ammunition is available for \$20 (cash only) for 25 rds. We strongly recommend that you bring additional cash to use in the event that you need to purchase extra ammunition. It is better to be prepared and complete the Merit Badge, than not have enough ammunition and receive a "Partial" on your blue card.

4) **Pre-requisite Work:** Please memorize the 3 NRA Safety Rules and make sure that you know them in order (i.e.: “What is rule #2? Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.”). They are attached as a .PDF download on the GLAAC Black Pug registration site.

5) **Weather:** Begin looking at the weather forecast for Brea, California. The weather at Firestone Scout Reservation changes quickly and can be unpredictable. You will be working outdoors on our ranges, so plan to dress accordingly.

6) **Dress:** Although this is a Merit Badge course, Boy Scout “Class A” uniforms are not required. Please just wear properly fitted Class B/Troop Shirts, etc. You will be in a wilderness outdoor setting, so dress for the weather, and closed-toe shoes are a must.

7) **Punctuality: Do not be late!** This is non-negotiable. A good rule of thumb to live by: 10 minutes early is on-time... on-time is late.

8) **Required Course materials:**

A) Please download of the BSA Shotgun Merit Badge Pamphlet and bring it with you (electronically or hardcopy) to your Shotgun MB Course. An electronic (.pdf) copy of the pamphlet is available as an attachment on the registration site. We recommend that you put it in a 3 - ring binder, or download it (there is no internet access in camp) onto the hard drive of a tablet.

B) Download, print out, and bring a copy of the FSR Shotgun Shooting Workbook. You will find the attachment on the GLAAC Black Pug registration site for this Course.

C) Bring completed copies of your BSA Health A/B, the Shooting Sports Permission Slip, and all other required forms (they are attached on the GLAAC Black Pug registration site). Do **NOT** show up to the course if you have not completed all of your forms. You cannot participate without having all of the forms completed. Failing to plan is planning to fail.

D) Bring a signed Blue Card. This is required to receive credit toward earning your Shotgun Merit Badge.

E) Bring a highlighter, a mechanical pencil, a pen (blue or black ink), and a 3-ring binder with lined paper.

F) Bring a portable camp chair to avoid having to stand for the entire course.

G) Make sure that you have a refillable water bottle (filled), a packed lunch, a hat, and if needed, sunscreen (applied before your arrival).

9) Safety Gear: If you own them, please bring hearing protection and safety glasses aka “Eyes & Ears” to the course. If not, you can use ours. Both items are reasonably priced and are available at most sporting goods stores, Walmart, Bass Pro Shops, Cabelas, as well as online at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

10) Age: Per Scouting USA guidelines, you must be registered with a Scout Troop and in 4th grade or higher to take this course. Of note, you will be shooting from the standing, freehand position. If you do not feel that you have the size or strength to shoot the 50+ rds required to pass this merit badge course, you may want to sign up for the rifle merit badge instead. You can then take the Shotgun course at a later date.

11) Parent/Guardian Participation: Your parent/guardian/Scout leader is expected to transport you to/from the Merit Badge Course. They are also welcome to observe the course.

12) Mindset: Bring an open mind, a cooperative attitude, and a willing smile. We are going to have a great course!

Please call, text, or email me with any questions. I can be reached at (949) 633-4777 or billgreenfield@gmail.com. If you are contacting me as a Scout, make sure that a parent/guardian/scoutmaster is cc'ed on the email, or included on the call/text.

Yours in Scouting,

Bill Greenfield

Range and Target Activities Director, Firestone Scout Reservation

NRA Training Counselor

NRA Chief Range Safety Officer