

Range and Target Activities (Formerly known as Shooting Sports)

As of Sept 1, BSA National is implementing changes to the shooting sports program.

Key items follow based on our best knowledge at this time.

National will now refer to the programs currently classified under “Shooting Sports” as “Range and Target Activities” and will adapt this name change to all BSA National materials over time. Both titles should be considered the same program.

Referenced changes below to firearm types, actions, calibers, and locations are for firearms only and do not affect BB, Archery, and Slingshot nor Cub Day Camp locations.

Ventures:

Will no longer be able to hunt.

Will have rifle and pistol limited to the same caliber as Scouts BSA, ie .22 rimfire.

Will have the rifle action limited to bolt.

Will no longer be able to shoot muzzleloading pistols.

Pistol will no longer be a unit level activity and only offered at council camps, see below:

All Ventures and Scouts BSA 14 and older or completed 8th grade

Will only be able to shoot .22 caliber pistols after completing NRA 1st steps 3-5 hour course for each pistol event and only at a council camp. Yes, this means that older Scouts BSA will be able to shoot pistols, including single action, double action, or semi-auto (1 action per NRA 1st steps course).

Indian Waters Council will look into making this program available.

Cowboy Action:

This program is offered at Camp Barstow only, and remains unchanged (NRA 1st steps is not required for the pistol portion).

Acceptable Ranges:

Council operated ranges or Commercial only. Commercial ranges must supervised and offer a controlled environment with an established range and an SOP.(Standard Operating Procedure).

Commercial may be a Business, Non-profit, or Government. Commercial ranges are to be confirmed by council before use. There will be NO avenue for approval of personal private property use ie (Uncle Bob’s Farm).

Personal Firearms:

No personal firearms or personal ammunition used on Council Camp ranges for scouting activities.

This has been a policy of many councils but is now a BSA National policy. Personal firearms and ammo may be used on non-council owned ranges if allowed by the range’s SOP.

A new “Range Activity SAFETY” course is an on-line course available Sept 1, which mirrors the purpose of Safe Swim, Safety Afloat, and Climb on Safely in that 1 adult 21 or over must have completed AND be present at the event for all unit level use of firearms.

Unchanged:

What does not change, is that no matter the location, of a unit, district, or council event involving firearms use or instruction, the required ratio of NRA instructors and NRA RSOs must comply with the current Shooting Sports Manual being replaced Sept 1 by the 2024 Range and Target Activities manual and is expected to have the same ratios. In addition, unit activities at commercial ranges using theirs or your personal firearms and ammo must still follow BSA’s policy on required supervision, action, and caliber. Re-loads are still not allowed in any scouting program.

Additional information can be found in the Guide to Safe Scouting and the Shooting Sports FAQ page both available at scouting.org.

Cub Scouting and Range and Target Activities Reminders

Since another Cub Scout year is kicking off, I'd like to add the following reminder to Instructors, Rangemasters, DEs, unit leaders, and adults.

BB, Archery, Slingshot are now "Target and Range Activities" and only the name has changed. These activities must only be run at District or Council events. This includes the use of the Council's blow-up archery range. Unit or multi-unit coordinated, invited, or otherwise established recruiting events, outings, etc. that are not set up by the district or council, may not include "Range and Target Activities". Forbidden activities for any Cub event still include boomerangs, tomahawks, spears, blow guns, etc. Even foam and Velcro tomahawks are not permitted, and although this may sound extreme, BSA National is concerned that upon seeing even the simplest Target and Throwing Sport used at a pack, den, multiple pack, or pack sponsored recruiting event, an adult (unfamiliar with National policy), will simply take the next step. Likely this means BSA National has already seen this happen. Other than a tabletop catapult tossing marshmallows or ping pong balls, it is always best to check with shooting sports before planning any Target and Range Activities.

A further reminder... Our Council's available equipment for authorized Cub events has mysteriously diminished. While nothing prevents Districts from purchasing, using, and storing their own equipment, please make sure any equipment borrowed from the Council office finds its way back so other youth can enjoy. All unsafe, damaged, or non-functioning council equipment should be tagged accordingly and returned to the council office for our review. Do not dispose of any equipment on your own. Range masters... ALL BB GUNS MUST BE UNLOADED upon return.

Volunteers always needed

Our Council staff of volunteer range masters, RSOs, and instructors are here to facilitate your program at either Camp Coker, Camp Barstow, Day camps, or assist with approved off-site activities. If you have an interest in becoming part of our staff and the qualified supervision necessary to facilitate "Range and Target Activities", please let me know. No prior knowledge in the area of firearms, archery, etc. is required.

YIS

David Leech

IWC Shooting Sports Chairman

803 960 3638

cclear@pbtcomm.net