

CUB SCOUT and WEBELOS BB GUN SHOOTING SPORTS

The following pages explain the different types of BB shooting programs we offer at Cub Scout Day Camps, Resident Camps, District, and Council lead events.

NOTE: For Cub Scout Day Camps and Resident Camps only, refer to NCAP Standard #SQ-407, which can be found at: <http://www.scouting.org/ncap.aspx>

BB Gun Community Event Shooting Program

Examples. A BB gun range set up at a Community event, County or State fair, a mall, etc. For a Council or District to use to promote “adventure” and recruiting youth to the BSA. These must be Council or District sponsored events **only**- Not a Pack, Den or “unit event”.

Youth: Minimum age - Tiger Cubs through Webelos (Registered or a youth of age to join).

Equipment / Ammunition: Defined as a smoothbore spring-piston or air rifle propelling shot known as “BBs”. The barrel velocity is to be 350 feet per second maximum .

Ammunition: BB’s only.

Participant Safety. Eye protection is required for all individuals on the range.

Participant Training / Facility set up. Five minutes reviewing the NRA 3 Rules of Gun Safety. Guns are tethered to a table and are loaded by instructors. Youth just aim at targets and fire. Bench rest position only, large bull’s-eye targets with a target carrier system, resetting metallic targets, balloons, and other fun, breakable targets.

Reference page 91 in the BSA National Shooting Sports Manual for Range Layout and design information. Example of a temporary safety enclosure could be the “Crossman Portable Airgun Range” – which can be found at www.crossman.com/easy/ranges .

Range supervision and ratio. One BSA BB Gun Rangemaster **OR** one currently certified National Camping School Shooting Sports Director **OR** an NRA Certified Rifle Instructor for every 8 shooters **AND** 1 adult supervising each Cub Scout shooter while shooting. These additional adults may be a parent or legal guardian or other responsible adult. *Refer to page 1 for Day Camp and Resident Camp ratios.*

BB Gun Open Shooting Program for fun

Purpose. Introduce and recruit Cub Scouts and Webelos into shooting sports programs. These must be Council or District events – cannot be a Pack or unit event.

Examples. A day-at-the-range event (fun shoot), NRA Day event (contact the National Rifle Association for information on NRA Day), Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program, Cub-oree, or District or Council camp weekend shooting event, are examples. A BB gun open shooting experience could be held at a BSA facility or facility that has been approved by the Council for District or Council level activities. Examples are facilities that have held day camp or resident camps for BSA summer camping programs.

Youth. Tiger Cubs through Webelos.

Equipment / Ammunition: Defined as a smoothbore spring-piston or air rifle propelling shot known as “BBs”. The barrel velocity is to be 350 feet per second maximum.
Ammunition: BB’s only.

Range. A BSA approved range. Reference page 91 in the BSA National Shooting Sports manual for Range Layout information and diagram.

Training. BSA BB gun briefing taught by a BSA Rangemaster, National Camping School Shooting Sports Director or an NRA Certified Rifle Instructor.

The NRA 3 Rules of safe gun handling will be taught as well as the parts of a BB Gun. Reference the BSA National Shooting Sports Manual pages 85, 88 and 93

Participant Safety. Eye protection is required for all individuals on the range.

Range supervision and ratio. One BSA BB Gun Rangemaster **OR** one currently certified National Camping School Shooting Sports Director **OR** an NRA Certified Rifle Instructor for every 8 shooters **AND** 1 adult supervising each Cub Scout shooter while shooting. These additional adults may be a parent or legal guardian or other responsible adult. *Refer to page 1 for Day Camp and Resident Camp ratios..*

Course. Bench rest, prone, or standing. Targets could be paper, resetting metallic targets, balloons, and other fun, breakable targets. You can also use the Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program.

BB Gun District or Council Level Competitive Shooting Sports Program

Purpose. Retention of Cub Scouts and Webelos by offering progressive year-round shooting sports programs within a District and/or Council. The program could begin with competition at a District level with the Packs competing against each other and then the “Top Pack in the District” could advance to the finals competing against other Packs at a Council-wide event. “This must be a Council or District sponsored event only- Not a Pack or “unit event”

Examples. Examples of ongoing programs are BB Gun leagues sponsored by the District/Council or a weekend BB Gun event where the Cub Scouts and Webelos are invited to participate in shooting event where a Cub Scout shoots for high score, best shot, etc.

Youth: Minimum age - Tiger Cubs through Webelos (Registered or a youth of age to join

BB Guns Smoothbore spring-piston or air rifle propelling shot known as BBs. The barrel velocity is 350 feet per second maximum.

Ammunition. BB’s.

Range. Reference page 91 in the BSA National Shooting Sports manual for Range Layout information and diagram.

Training. BSA BB gun briefing taught by Rangemaster, National Camping School Shooting Sports Director or an NRA Certified Rifle Instructor. See shooting sports manual page page - 84 Cub Scout BB Gun Shooting Training for shooting positions being used.

Safety. Eye protection is required for all BB guns and air rifles.

Range supervision and ratio. One BSA BB Gun Rangemaster **OR** one currently certified National Camping School Shooting Sports Director **OR** an NRA Certified Rifle Instructor for every 8 shooters **AND** 1 adult supervising each Cub Scout shooter while shooting. These additional adults may be a parent or legal guardian or other responsible adult. *Refer to page 1 for Day Camp and Resident Camp ratios.*

Course.

The Course of Fire can be as simple as a BB Gun League where a set number of weeks would be established allowing the Scouts to shoot once a week keeping score. This could be designed with the Scouts first shooting on a District Level where Scouts from the different Packs shoot against each other for the top three shooters in the District. The 3 top shooters from each District would then move on to a final shoot at the Council level for the top 3 shooters in the Council being awarded a Council trophy. This is similar to a Pinewood Derby competition.

**District or Council Operated Round-robin Program
To Teach the Belt Loop Program
Station 1 of 3**

Learning Objectives:

When training youth to shoot, it is necessary to have proper equipment, secure and safe ranges, and clear safety instruction. Gun safety is a simple but continuous process. Youth must first learn about safe gun handling and safe handling skills are developed through practice. The most important safety element is attitude. All the safety knowledge and skills are of little value unless they are used properly. Being safe means consciously keeping a BB gun under control and *always* pointed in a safe direction. Before handling any gun, a Scout must always get permission from his parent or guardian. If this is his first BB gun shooting experience, he should sit down with an adult and discuss under what circumstances the gun can be handled and he must understand that the BB gun is not a toy.

Requirement # 1: Explain the rules for safe BB gun shooting that you have learned from your adult leader or adult partner.

Length: 20 minutes

Youth in Session: 16 youth maximum

Personnel Needed: 1 or 2 staff adults or older youth that are Venturing or older Boy Scout age plus the participant's parent or legal guardian.

Location: This session can be taught under a shelter or in a campsite location.

Training aids: BB gun, NRA 3 rules of gun safety poster, parts of a BB gun poster

Lesson Content:

Explain the following to the Cub Scouts.

Before using a gun:

- Always get permission from your parent or guardian.
- Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction!
- Always have an adult present when you handle a gun.
- Know how the gun works and how to use it.
- Always be sure of your target and what is beyond the target.
- Always wear eye protection.
- Never reuse BBs.

These basic rules apply to handling a BB gun under any circumstances are as follows:

1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. This is the primary rule of gun safety. “Safe direction” means the gun is pointed so that even if it were to go off, it would not cause injury or damage. The key to this rule is to control where the muzzle, or front end of the barrel, is pointed at all times. Common sense dictates the safest direction depending on circumstances.
2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot. When holding a gun, rest your finger along the side of the gun or the trigger guard. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.
3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use. When you pick up a gun, carefully point it in a safe direction. Engage the safety, if possible. Then, while keeping your finger off the trigger, open the action and look inside the chamber(s) to make sure it is clear of ammunition. If the gun has a magazine, remove it before opening the action and make sure it is empty. If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the gun alone and get help from someone who does.

Safety Reminders

What should a Cub Scout do if he finds a gun in another place?

- STOP!
- DON'T TOUCH!
- LEAVE THE AREA!
- TELL AN ADULT!

Belt Loop Program Station 2 of 3

Learning Objectives: To understand the correct techniques to shoot a BB Gun safely.

Requirement # 2: Demonstrate to your leader or adult partner good BB gun shooting techniques, including eye dominance, shooting shoulder, breathing, sight alignment, trigger squeeze and follow through.

Length: 20 minutes

Youth in Session: 16 youth maximum

Personnel Needed: 1 or 2 staff adults or older youth that are Venturing or older Boy Scout age plus the participant's parent or legal guardian.

Location: This session can be taught under a shelter or in a campsite location.

Training aids: BB gun, sight alignment diagrams – found on page 86 in BSA Shooting Sports Manual and parts of a BB gun - found on page 93 in BSA Shooting Sports Manual (Suggest

having a poster showing both of these items which can be easily made by enlarging diagrams in the manual.

Lesson Content: BB Gun Shooting Basics

Eye Dominance -Before shooting a gun, the participants should determine which eye is dominant. Just as people are either right- or left-handed, one eye is more dominant than the other. Discovering which eye a shooter favors is important because it could determine on which side the gun is held. To find which eye is dominant, have participants extend both arms in front of them and form a small hole with their thumbs and index fingers. Instruct them to look at a distant object through the opening and then pull their hands back to their face. The eye that is in line with the object is dominant.

Shooting Shoulder - It is recommended that a shooter use the shoulder that is on the same side of the body as the dominant eye. If the right eye is dominant, place the firearm against the right shoulder. If the left eye is dominant, use the left shoulder.

Breathing - When shooting, stop breathing before firing a shot. Breathing causes the body to move and makes it difficult to maintain a steady sight picture. Before firing, relax and get comfortable. Then exhale and stop breathing. This technique will help shooters aim by reducing the body and rifle movement in relation to the target. Do not stop breathing for longer than eight to 10 seconds while aiming at the target. If you are not able to shoot within that time, stop, take a breath or two, and repeat the process.

Sight Alignment - The shooter must learn proper sight alignment. This is the relationship of the front and rear sights to the eye. The shooter's dominant eye must be lined up with the front and rear sights, and the sights must be positioned so the front sight device is aligned properly with the rear sight. Proper sight alignment is a key to accurate shooting. Any misalignment of the front sight with the rear sight introduces an angular error that is multiplied with distance. A correct sight picture is obtained by achieving the proper alignment and then putting the aligned sights into their proper relationship with the target.

Trigger Squeeze - Trigger squeeze is the term used to explain how pressure is applied to the trigger. Some other terms commonly used are trigger pull, trigger control, trigger press, and trigger movement. While all these terms are correct, the preferred term is trigger squeeze because it accurately describes the smooth application of pressure required. When ready to begin squeezing the trigger, the index finger should be on the trigger so the trigger is about halfway between the tip of the finger and the first joint. The trigger must be squeezed straight back in a smooth, continuous manner without disturbing the sight alignment. Once trigger squeeze has begun, keep squeezing smoothly and continuously—do not speed up or slow down or apply pressure in a start-and-stop manner. Use the same type of pressure that would be used to squeeze a drop of liquid from a medicine dropper—a gradual, steady application of pressure until the drop finally falls. Just as it would be impossible to predict the instant the drop of liquid will fall, it should be impossible to predict the precise instant the gun will fire. Each shot should come as a surprise. For best results, trigger squeeze and sight alignment must be done simultaneously.

Follow Through - The shooter must also master proper follow-through. Follow through means to continue to do everything that was being done at the time the shot was fired. In other words, keep aiming until the BB hits the target. The idea is to prevent any unnecessary movement before the projectile leaves the barrel. Because an air gun takes longer to send a projectile out of the barrel, proper follow-through is particularly important.

Belt Loop Program Station 3 of 3

Learning Objectives: To practice shooting a BB Gun safely.

Requirement # 3: Practice shooting at your District or Council camp for the time allowed.

Length: 20-30 minutes

Youth in Session: 16 youth maximum

Range Supervision: 1 or more BSA BB gun range masters or BSA Shooting Sports Directors or NRA Rifle Instructors – see ratio

Ratio of instructor to students: One BSA BB Gun Rangemaster, or BSA Shooting Sports Director or NRA Rifle Instructor for each group of 8 shooters.

Personnel Needed: 1 or 2 staff adults or older youth that are Venturing or Boy Scout age plus Cub Scout parents to help on the range. **These people are not qualified to run the range.**

Location: This session must be taught on the range.

Training aids: BB gun, sight alignment diagrams, which can be found on page 86 in BSA Shooting Sports manual, and parts of a BB gun poster which can be made by enlarging diagram from page 93 in the BSA Shooting Sports Manual.

Lesson Content: Range commands: The list below is an example of range commands to be used while running the range.

Basic Shooting Activity: The following is an example of how to run the shooting activity

This shooting activity covers many of the basic fundamentals needed in shooting a BB gun. Pair Cub Scouts and adults as shooters and coaches.

1. Greet the participants.
2. Bring the participants onto the range.
3. Show the gun and say “This is a BB gun.”
4. Point to the barrel and say, “This is the barrel.”
5. Point to the muzzle and say, “This is the muzzle. It is the end the BB shoots out.” Always

- keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
6. Point to the action and say, “This is the action. It has the trigger—the part you squeeze to shoot.” Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
 7. Say, “The action also has the chamber where you put the BB to load the gun.” Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.
 8. Point to the stock and say, “This is the stock.” Then demonstrate how to hold the gun: Put the butt of the stock against your shoulder and to your cheek, hold the grip with the hand of the same arm, keeping your finger off the trigger and pointed in the same safe direction as the gun. Hold the fore end with your other hand.
 9. Say, “You will use the free-arm standing position like this.” Demonstrate the position that is recommended for your range.
 10. Have everyone on the range put on eye protection, either safety glasses or goggles.
 11. Say, “Shooters, please move forward at my command.” Then give the command, “ON THE FIRING LINE.”
 12. Assume the shooting position.
 13. Have shooters pick up their guns, keeping them pointed in a safe direction down range.
 14. Have shooters again assume the shooting position, this time with the gun, and look through the sights. Explain how the sights are used.
 15. Once all shooters know how to assume the shooting position and how to properly hold the gun, explain and demonstrate how to charge the gun.
 16. Have shooters load BBs into the chamber. (Explain further.) Close and ready the gun.
 17. Return to your shooting position. Note that every one can make ready and load the gun.
 18. Give the command “READY ON THE FIRING LINE.”
 19. When shooters are in the ready position, give the command “COMMENCE FIRING.” Shoot all your five shots.
 20. Watch for safety and help as needed.
 21. Give the command “CEASE FIRING.” Everyone is to stop shooting.
 22. Give the command “CLEAR ALL GUNS.” Have everyone clear their gun.
 23. Explain and demonstrate how to make a gun safe. “explain and demonstrate what to do with the BB Gun when you are finished shooting or if Cease Fire is called”
 24. Have shooters and coaches switch positions.
 25. Repeat from step 10.

Groups may continue to rotate shooting or may exit the range.

Pin Program Station 1

Learning Objectives: To develop knowledge of the parts of a BB Gun and how to properly load the BB Gun safely and where to locate the safety mechanism.

Requirement : #1: Explain the parts of a BB gun and demonstrate how to properly load the gun.

Requirement #10: Explain how to use the safety mechanism on a BB Gun

Length: 20 minutes

Youth in Session: 16 youth maximum

Personnel Needed: BB Gun Range-master and 1 or 2 staff adults or older youth that are Venturing or Boy Scout age.

Location: BB Gun Range

Training aids: BB Gun, BBs, BB Gun Poster with parts of BB gun displayed

Lesson Content:

Requirement #1 : Teach the parts of a BB gun using a BB Gun and a poster showing the parts labeled. Reference the BSA National Shooting Sports Manual. Demonstrate how to safely open and close the action and how to load the BBs into the gun. Explain that only the correct ammunition for the BB gun must be used.

Requirement #10: Explain how to use the safety mechanism on a BB gun. Explain that a safety mechanism is a mechanical device and can fail, therefore, the NRA 3 Rules of Gun Safety must always be followed

**Pin Program
Station 2**

Learning Objectives: Learn how to make a target.

Requirement : #8: Help make a type of target for the camp BB gun shooting range.

Length: 20 minutes

Youth in Session: 16 youth maximum

Personnel Needed: 1 or 2 staff adults or older youth that are Venturing or older Boy Scout age.

Location: This can be taught under a shelter or campsite location.

Training aids: BB gun targets and paper plates.

Lesson Content: Using paper plates and black magic markers, have the Cub Scouts make a BB Gun target. Having various size round shapes (can be made out of cardboard) will help the Cub Scouts make the targets.

**Pin Program
Station 3**

Learning Objectives: To learn the correct scoring techniques for target BB gun shooting.

Requirement : #4: Learn the correct scoring techniques for target BB gun shooting.

Length: 20 minutes

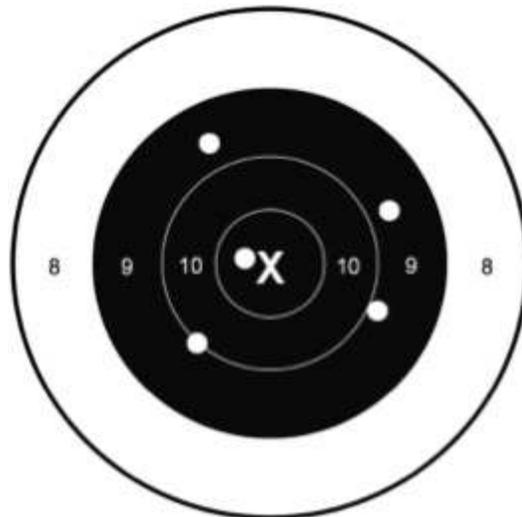
Youth in Session: 16 youth maximum

Personnel Needed: 1 or 2 staff adults or older youth that are Venturing or older Boy Scout age.

Location: This can be taught under a shelter or campsite location

Training aids: BB gun targets

Lesson Content:



**Hits: “X”=1, “10”=2, “9”=2
Score: 48 points, includes 1-X ring**

X ring is important as that scores as 10 pts but it is more accurate and breaks any scoring ties

How to score a target

Hits outside the scoring rings have a value of zero

Hits completely or partially inside a scoring ring receive that ring’s value

Hits that touch a scoring ring receive that ring’s value

**Pin Program
Station 4**

Learning Objectives: To show improvement in shooting skills.

Requirement : 7: Show improvement in your shooting ability with an increase in scoring points.

Length: 20 minutes

Youth in Session: 16 youth maximum

Personnel Needed: One BB Gun Rangemaster for every 8 shooters and 1 or 2 staff adults or older youth that are Venturing or older Boy Scout age.

Location: BB Gun Range.

Training aids: Range Safety Poster

Lesson Content: Cub Scouts will practice their shooting skills and show improvement in their abilities.

Challenging Pin Program Station 1

Learning Objectives: To learn the different shooting positions.

Requirement : #2: Demonstrate the shooting positions.

Length: 20 minutes

Youth in Session: 16 youth maximum.

Personnel Needed: 1 or 2 staff adults or older youth that are Venturing or Boy Scout age.

Location: This can be taught under a shelter or campsite location.

Training aids: Posters showing the shooting positions and mats

Lesson Content: Using the BSA National Shooting Sports Manual, pages 87 and 88, demonstrate the shooting positions, (Free Arm Standing, Prone, Kneeling, and Sitting) and have the Cub Scouts learn how to get into each position.

Challenging Pin Program Station 2

Learning Objectives: To reinforce the proper range commands.

Requirement : #5: Make a poster that emphasizes the proper range commands.

Length: 20 minutes

Youth in Session: 16 youth maximum

Personnel Needed: 1 or 2 staff adults or older youth that are Venturing or Boy Scout age.

Location: This can be taught under a shelter or campsite location.

Training aids: A demonstration poster with range commands.

Lesson Content: Review a poster with the Range Commands clearly printed out. Keep this simple.

Challenging Pin Program Station 3

Learning Objectives: To learn what a BB gun range looks like.

Requirement : 6: Draw to scale or set up a BB gun shooting range

Length: 20 minutes

Youth in Session: 16 youth maximum.

Personnel Needed: 1 or 2 staff adults or older youth that are Venturing or Boy Scout age.

Location: This can be taught under a shelter or campsite location. If setting up a BB gun range, this must be taught at a range location.

Training aids: A demonstration poster with range layout. Reference the BSA National Shooting Sports manual, page 91 for a drawing of a BB gun range.

Lesson Content: Using poster paper, have the Cub Scouts draw to scale a BB gun shooting range.

Challenging Pin Program Station 4

Learning Objectives: To learn how to properly store shooting equipment.

Requirement : 9: Show how to put away and properly store BB gun shooting equipment after use.

Length: 20 minutes

Youth in Session: 16 youth maximum

Personnel Needed: 1 or 2 staff adults or older youth that are Venturing or Boy Scout age.

Location: This can be taught under a shelter or campsite location. If BB guns are stored at a camp range, this should be taught at the range showing the proper storage location.

Training aids: BB guns and equipment

Lesson Content: State that guns should be stored so that they are not accessible to any unauthorized person. Ask for examples of what “unauthorized people” may be. Explain that storing guns and ammunition depends on several factors including security and accessibility. Safe and secure storage means untrained individuals (especially young children) are not able to access the guns or ammunition. Ask for examples.

Challenging Pin Program Station 5

Learning Objectives: To learn the history of a BB gun.

Requirement : #11: Tell five facts about the history of BB guns.

Length: 20 minutes

Youth in Session: 16 youth maximum.

Personnel Needed: 1 or 2 staff adults or older youth that are Venturing or Boy Scout age.

Location: This can be taught under a shelter or campsite location

Training aids: Using the BSA National Shooting Sports manual, page 83, have handouts available of the section “A Brief History of BB Guns” for the Cub Scouts. A Brief History of BB guns

Lesson Content: Review the History of BB Guns with the Cub Scouts and ask them to write down five facts that they learned.

In ancient history, blowguns began to appear in many different parts of the world. Although crude, these primitive weapons were very accurate. They were made from bamboo or other hollowed-out woods. A blowgun is a tube into which a hunter blows to shoot a projectile out the other end. This idea was transferred into gun form somewhere in the 1500s. The bellows gun, invented around 1580, is the earliest known air-powered gun.

A few decades later, the first pneumatic (pump-up) air gun was created in France for King Henry IV. The nobility usually owned these early guns, since they were too expensive for commoners. In the late 1700s, some units of the Austrian army were equipped with air rifles. In America,

records show that in the 1800s, Lewis and Clark had an air gun for hunting and impressing the native Americans. The native Americans called it “the smokeless thunder stick.”

In 1885, in the United States, the Markham Air Rifle Company became one of the first companies to sell BB guns. These pneumatic rifles eliminated bullets and used a small pellet the size of a ball bearing, soon to be called a “BB.”

A few years later, a company that sold steel windmills decided to also sell BB rifles. By 1895, this company had stopped producing windmills and made air rifles full-time and changed the company name to Daisy. Daisy’s guns were mostly made of steel, which improved the gun’s strength and design. The Daisy air rifle became popular very quickly, and within five years Daisy had sold 250,000 BBguns. Soon, Daisy bought out all of its competition. Daisy also promoted to youth by making special BB guns thatrelated with popular historical characters like Davy Crockett. In 1984, the Olympic Games featured air guns for the first time. Today, BB guns are still being produced in both rifle and pistol forms and are very popular among all age groups.