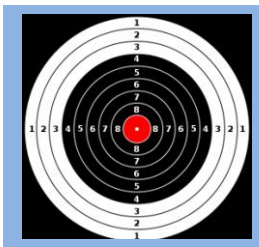

SHOOTING SPORTS Addendum

Eagle Ridge TALON

June 2011

Shooting activities are very popular among Scouts, Varsity Scouts and Venturers. Most adult scout leaders will find themselves being asked to take their youth shooting at some point. If you are such a leader, it is important for you to know what is required in order to take scouts on a **national BSA approved**, safe shooting sport activity.

First, understand that any shooting activity requires a **tour plan**, regardless of distance traveled to the shooting event. Teaching a shooting merit badge is not a shooting activity except when it comes time to meet the shooting requirements, then it is a shooting activity and a tour plan must be filed.

Second, you must understand the level of activity you will be having. There are 5 levels the BSA and the NRA have identified together for each shooting discipline. I don't have room to elaborate on each level in each discipline. (I may be able to elaborate in future editions.) Each level has different requirements. The typical scout shooting activity is usually a level 2 activity. This activity requires one certified **Range Safety Officer (RSO**) and at least one **NRA** certified instructor for that particular shooting discipline. So, at minimum, you must engage at least two different people before filling out the Tour Plan. For example, if going Rifle shooting you must have an RSO and an NRA certified instructor who is certified for Rifle shooting. Furthermore, in some cases, you may need more than one NRA certified instructor. For level 2 activities: Pistol shooting requires one instructor for each three persons shooting at a time. Shotgun shooting requires one instructor for each person shooting at a time. Rifle shooting requires one instructor for each eight people who are shooting at a time. You may have 12 boys at the activity but if you only have one rifle instructor then only eight boys can be shooting at a time. Also, be aware that based on the number of boys shooting at a time, you may also have to have more than one RSO. When you contact an RSO or instructor they should be able to give you the necessary information.

Also, understand that only registered Venturers can shoot pistols and centerfire rifles. Scouts and Varsity scouts can shoot shotguns and rimfire rifles.

Third, fill out and submit the tour permit three weeks in advance. Obviously, this requires planning ahead. Most importantly, you will need to enter the NRA certification # for the RSO and the instructor(s) on the tour plan.

Fourth, some may be tempted to bypass the above requirements and go on a "Father/Son/Neighborhood" shooting activity. Please understand that within the LDS church and within any BSA unit, this would not be an approved priesthood/scouting activity and, therefore, would not be covered by BSA or church insurance should any injuries occur regardless of whether it was a shooting related injury or not. You may then be personally liable.

In order to help you meet these requirements, council has asked each district to form a shooting sports committee. Currently our district only has one certified RSO who is also the only NRA certified instructor for Pistol shooting.

We need your help. Please! Contact me if:

- You are interested in becoming a certified instructor and RSO. Please do!
- You want more information regarding the different levels of shooting activities.
- You want to take your unit shooting.

I hope you find this helpful. By heeding these requirements your activity will be safe and covered by BSA and church insurance.

Thank you,

Darwin Sass
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