

Golden Empire Council Shooting Sports

Frequently Asked Questions

BSA Rangemaster training is taught by a certified NRA Rifle Instructor and a certified USAA/NFAA Level 1 or above Archery Instructor. BSA Rangemaster training is good for 2 years.

- **BSA Rangemaster must be present and** is in charge of the following **Cub Scout ranges**: BBguns, sling shots, water rockets, rockets, wrist rockets, catapults, archery and pellet gun ranges. **Note:** Pellet guns are used by Webelos only at an approved residence/council/district event. No tomahawks/knives for cub scouts.
- **BSA Rangemaster** is in charge of Cub Scout archery ranges. Instructor must be 18 years or older. Onsite range instructions are given to shooters before each session by the BSA Range Master.
- **Cub Scout Ratio:** One Rangemaster/NRA certified rifle instructor/National Camping School Sports Director for every 8 shooters on each archery/bbgun/slingshot range **and** one adult partner per Tiger Cub must be present for each BBgun/archery/slingshot range.
- **Eye protection** is required for everyone on the range. Each range must have posted one GEC Range Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and one range rules poster at the entrance of each individual range.
- **A permission slip** to use firearms must be signed by each parent/guardian even if a parent is on the range with the scout. Camp directors will notify the instructor of any permission slip that has not been signed. (See council forms on GEC website or Shooting Sports under Programs-Committees.)
- Take aim at fun and excitement with the **new Cub Scout Shooting Sports Awards for Tigers-Webelos**. The awards are offered in three disciplines: BB guns, archery, and slingshots. With rank-specific requirements and insignia, there is incentive for boys to earn the awards year after year at camp. With these new awards, Cub Scouts will hit the bull's-eye with fun! **Certified BSA Rangemaster/ NRA Instructor on a certified range are the only people who can teach this program. Contact Dennis Weiss dennis.weiss@gec-bsa.org for the instructional power-point and materials.**

General Information

Note: A BSA Rangemaster is **NOT** in charge of a *Scouts BSA, Venturing, or Sea Scout ranges* for BBG, pellet guns, rifle, shotgun, pistol, black powder and archery, but can assist on a range under the direction of a NRA instructor. Note: A BSA Rangemaster is **NOT** an NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO)

Note: *Slingshot projectiles should be small biodegradable objects. Recommended (e.g. dried beans or dry dog food; be aware of attracting unwanted rodents). Rocks and steel balls are NOT permitted.*

Ranges include: A BSA-approved range or a public or private commercial range or club, a portable range, a shooting trailer, or a temporary safety enclosure.

Private property ranges: If using private property for the range location, you must follow the BSA private property range approval process. All private property ranges must be inspected and approved by a NRA Chief Range Safety Officer (RSO). Specific paperwork must be filled out and signed by a Chief RSO and signed by the program council executive and is good for 2 years, if no changes are made during the 2 year period. This paperwork and instructions can be found on the BSA National site; “Procedures to use Public or Private Property for a Shooting Sports Range.”

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/OutdoorProgram/ShootingSports.aspx>

(Exception-Cub Scout BBgun Twilight Camp ranges are inspected differently.)

AMMO: The use of all self-reloaded and remanufactured factory reload type ammunition ***is not*** approved for BSA shooting programs.

Shooting Sports Events: All shooting sports unit/district/council events must be approved by the Shooting Sports Committee.

BSA Rangemasters also provide safety & supervision to **Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouts for the following ranges only:** Airsoft, tomahawks, knives, sling shots, water rockets, rockets, wrist rockets and catapults.

New training as of 2016: A special endorsement training (code S100) must be completed by BSA Range Masters to supervise air soft ranges for **Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouts only.**

BSA Rangemaster Training: All instructors must submit an attendance list of your trainings to the council who will record the information on Scoutnet and send one copy to the GEC Shooting Sports Chair. See GEC website (under forms) for the correct attendance form.

For Scouts BSA, Venturing & Sea Scout Ranges

- ✓ **There are 5 levels of shooting experiences for each firearm discipline. Read the National Shooting Sports manual for Levels 1,3-5 for specific rules and requirements.**

Level 2: Open Shooting Experience (Most often used in GEC)

Purpose. Introduce and recruit Scouts into shooting sports programs.

Examples. A day-at-the-range event (fun shoot), NRA Day event or Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program. A BSA camp weekend shoot, camporee, or Order of the Arrow event are examples. **Eye protection is required for everyone and each range must have posted one GEC Range Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). One range rules poster at the entrance of each individual range should be visible.**

Rifle, BBguns and air rifle ranges for Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scouts: you must have for every **8** shooters;

- One NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO) who is:

For more information regarding the GEC Shooting Sports Committee/shooting questions contact Chair Dennis Weiss dennis-weiss@sbcglobal.net 209-327-4750 or Michell Piasis, Council Shooting Sports Program Executive 916 333-5421 Revised 4/5/2021

- Twenty-one years of age or older and holds current NRA range safety officer credentials.
 - In charge of the firing line at any time it is in operation.
 - May not leave the firing line at any time while it is in operation unless another RSO is present.
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- An RSO is the Safety Person in charge of the range and is not an instructor.

AND

One certified NRA Rifle Instructor

Shotgun Ranges-

- One NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO) for every 6 shooters

AND

One certified NRA Shotgun Instructor for each student is required when loading and firing a shotgun.

Black Powder Ranges-

- One certified NRA Black Powder Instructor per shooter while loading and firing

AND

One NRA RSO for every 3 shooters.

Pistol Ranges- All pistols including black powder and high-power firearms are reserved for youth involved in the Venturing and Sea Scouting programs only.

- *One Certified NRA Pistol Instructor per shooter for open shooting*

AND

One NRA RSO for every 3 shooters.

Archery Ranges

For Scouts BSA, Venturing & Sea Scouts

For every **8** shooters you must have;

One Archery Level 1 or higher certified instructor (18 years of age or older)

LaPorte Archery

For every 3 shooters you must have;

One Archery Level 1 or higher certified instructor (18 years of age or older)

For a Scouts BSA, Venturing or Council training event; tomahawks, knife, sling shots, rockets, catapults, and rubber band gun ranges:

For every **8** shooters you must have; **One BSA Rangemaster Who teaches the BSA Rangemaster, Archery, Range Safety Officer (RSO) Rifle, Shotgun, Black Powder, Air Soft & Pistol Instructor certifications?**

- Level 1 or higher archery instructors teach the BSA Rangemaster Archery Certification
- Level 2 or higher archery instructors teach Level 1
- Level 3 or higher archery instructors teach Level 1 & 2
- NRA Rifle Instructors teach the BSA Rangemaster's certification for BB Gun & Air Rifles (Class instruction also includes information for tomahawks, knives, catapults, sling shots, water rockets, rockets and rubber band guns).
- NRA Training Counselors teach the Black Powder, Rifle, Shotgun, or Pistol instructor course.
- NRA Rifle Instructors teach the Rifle Merit badge and basic rifle course.
- NRA Shotgun Instructors teach the Shotgun Merit Badge and basic shotgun course.
- NRA Pistol Instructors teach Pistol marksmanship for Venturer Scouts.
- Range Safety Officers (RSO) training is taught by a NRA Chief Range Safety Officer (CRSO)

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- **New training as of 2016:** A special endorsement training (code S100) must be completed by BSA Rangemasters to supervise air soft ranges for **Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouts only.**

Note: Level 1 or above archery instructors can teach a BSA Rangemaster class for Cub Scout day camps/district/council archery events and NRA Certified Rifle Instructors teach a BSA Rangemaster class for Cub Scout BBgun, and air rifle day camps/district/council events.

Onsite range instructions are given to shooters before each session by the BSA Rangemaster or RSO.

Merit Badge Counselors for rifle & shotgun

Merit Badge Counselors must have NRA rifle/shotgun certifications. Counselor training materials are in the National Shooting Sports manual/merit badge booklet. Counselors teach the merit badge using the merit badge pamphlet and the *First Steps Rifle/Shotgun* Orientation Lesson Plans and record the training and scout's first name information on the NRA Instructors site, so NRA counselor credit is received and the NRA knows that the BSA is encouraging scouts to participate in their programs. Our NRA grants depend on this participation and recording of names. This recorded information is not passed onto outside agency. For more information contact the council shooting sports task force chair-Dennis Weiss dennis-weiss@sbcglobal.net

Do Scouts BSA, Venturering, Sea Scouts and adults need training before they enter a Golden Empire Council GEC shooting range?

Yes, all scouts and adults using firearms or archery equipment before entering a GEC range;

- Must receive a 30 minute briefing by a certified NRA instructor based on each discipline.
- Each archery participant must attend a 30-minute briefing by a trained Level 1 or higher instructor.
- Pistol shooting is done by Venturer Scouts and Sea Scouts only and requires specific trainings based on the level of shooting being done.
- **Note:** The new Pistol program is not authorized for now in the Golden Empire Council for 14 year old boys or above in Boy Scout Troops . (Special certification for instructors is required)

For all Scouts BSA, Venturing, Sea Scouts/adults that will be shooting on a GEC range must attend a 30-minute training for each discipline i.e. archery, shotgun, rifle, and pistol to receive a Shooting Sports white training card. This card is issued to the scout/adult by an instructor and must be shown at each range. (Similar to a totem chip card). Additional instruction is given at each range before a scout/adult begins shooting. If a scout loses their training card or does not follow the rules of each range, the training discipline(s) must be retaken with a new card issued.

Additional trainings may be required for shooting levels 3-5 for the discipline you may be participating in.

Is this training card good in other councils?

Only if the council/instructor accepts your training card. Normally you will need to fulfil that council's required training sessions.

➤ **For more on the BSA Shooting Sports Program manuals go to:**

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/OutdoorProgram/ShootingSports.aspx>

Read/download the manual and current updates located on the BSA website. The

Shooting Sports Manual has not been revised since 2012 with exceptions of the updates.

For Instructors

The GEC Shooting Sports Task Force has power-point instruction materials to help instructors with their 30-minute trainings.

- Any USA Archery Certified Coach/Level 1 or above may teach the 30-minute archery discipline to scouts or archery portion of the BSA Rangemaster certification class. Power point trainings are available to teach the training materials.
- Any NRA Certified Rifle Instructor can teach a BSA Rangemaster certification class. Power points and training cards are available for teaching the BSA Rangemaster instruction for BBgun, tomahawks, knives, sling shots, catapults, and rubber band guns by contacting Dennis Weiss dennis-weiss@sbcglobal.net
- Training cards are available to instructors for the 30-minute trainings to give to each participant.
- Training cards are available to instructors for BSA Rangemaster training.
- Please use the GEC training record sheet (GEC website under program/forms) for recording the BSA Rangemaster class participant's information and send one copy to the person on the record sheet and one copy to the council shooting sports chair dennis-weiss@sbcglobal.net. Each attendee should be asked if they would like their email address added to the shooting sports email list for monthly minutes and shooting sports information.
- Merit Badge Instructors- please remember to mark the box (Boy Scouts) on the NRA Instructor website when recording your student's completion of their shotgun/rifle merit badge. You will need the scouts name and birthday. There is an information sheet available to show you how to record your information. Rifle and Shotgun merit badges are taught by NRA Instructors only. Contact Dennis Weiss
- With permission from the BSA attendee, all instructors please provide the GEC Shooting Sports Chair with a list of attendees to include, name, contact information and district. This way trainees can be asked to assist in future shooting events as time permits for attendee's schedule.
- The new Cub Scout Shooting Sports Program is now available with a power point presentation. Contact Dennis Weiss for a copy.

Recap of BSA Rangemaster Training

Per the GEC Shooting Sports Committee and the BSA:

There are 4 parts of the BSA Rangemaster training.

1. BBguns Training Code CS32 –Instructor must be a NRA certified rifle instructor and they also teach the modules for 2 and 3;

(Note: This training is only good for cub scout BBgun ranges. Instruction for the Cub Scout Shooting Sports patch and pins are also taught in the BBgun module.)

Tomahawk/knives. (Note: Tomahawks/knives are for Scouts BSA, Venturing/Sea Scouts only, but is taught in the BSA Rangemaster class)

Slingshots- Good for cubs/scouts/Scouts BSA/Venturing/Sea Scouts. Instruction for the Cub Scout Shooting Sports patch and pins are also taught in the slingshot module.)

4. Archery Training code CS31-Instructor must be a USA Archery Level 1 or higher instructor to teach the archery module. This training is for Cub Scouts only.

Instruction for the Cub Scout Shooting Sports patch and pins are also taught in the archery module.

Note: BSA Rangemaster training also includes information on using rockets, catapults, water rockets and anything that flies in the air that is permitted by BSA for both cubs and boy scouts. To shoot BBguns in Scouts BSA/Venturing/Sea Scouts the “BSA Rangemaster class” is **NOT** the required training. You must be a certified NRA Rifle Instructor to instruct on a Scouts BSA/Venturing/Sea Scout BBgun ranges.

Training Discounts for Scouting Volunteers

The GEC Shooting Sports Committee has negotiated with several NRA Certified Training Counselors to provide a special “BSA Training Price”. The specific discount amount is at the discretion of each instructor and trainees must be an active and registered BSA adult volunteer. Each trainee is asked to donate their available time to future GEC shooting events for at least 2 years to help scouts learn the valuable lessons of safe gun handling and operation. Watch the council news page/calendar for upcoming training dates and special shooting events at www.gec-bsa.org

More information

Our GEC Shooting Sports Facebook page is located at “Golden Empire Council Shooting Sports”

New BSA Shooting Sports Programs:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/outdoorprogram/shootingsports.aspx>

Golden Empire Council Shooting Sports page: <http://www.gec-bsa.org/programs/shooting-sports-program/62580>

For questions ask your District Shooting Sports Chair or email Dennis-weiss@sbcglobal.net

Reminder checklist for events:

Things you need to do before attending or organizing any shooting event **for Scouts BSA, Venturing and Sea Scout units.**

Each answer should be a Yes:

- We have the correct # instructors and RSO’s based on the discipline and number of scouts attending our event.
- If our district/unit is organizing a firearm event, the district chairman has notified the shootingsports committee chair prior to our event/activity.

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- The # of scouts shooting on each range must be recorded and emailed to the shooting sports committee chair after each event. This is done to help secure future council shooting sports grants.
- A GEC Shooting Sports permission slip to use firearms has been received by each parent/guardian (even if a parent is on the range with a scout) and the form has been reviewed by the range safety officer/ instructor.
- If our event is on private property do we have a current property inspection verification on file?
- Do your scouts have their 30-minute discipline cards for the firearms/archery programs we are using?
- Do we have enough safety glasses for everyone on the range?
- Have we read the SOP's for the range we are using? The GEC has a SOP available for your ranges. Does our range(s) have a range rule posted on each range?
- We are using ammo that is approved by the BSA. (The use of all self-reloaded and remanufactured factory reload type ammunition ***is not*** approved for BSA shooting programs.)
- If using a commercial shooting range, check their SOP's, and ask about their RSO and Instructors credentials. All commercial shooting ranges have their own rules but the BSA rules also must be met.

Ready ... Aim ... Fire! Announcing the New Cub Scout Shooting Sports Awards

<https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/shooting-sports/>

Unauthorized Activities

The BSA National Shooting Sports Task Force has reviewed the following shooting sports activities and feels that they have no value to the mission and values of the BSA shooting sports program. There may be other activities that are not authorized even though they are not listed below.

Unauthorized activities, weaponry, and ammunition include but are not limited to:

- Flintlock rifles and flintlock shotguns
- Reloading ammunition and using reloaded ammunition
- Crossbows
- Bottle rockets
- Exploding targets of any kind
- Short-barreled rifles or short-barreled shotguns
- Destructive devices or other regulated items such as grenades
- Firearms included in the National Firearms Act
- Cannons (Their use is limited to council camp ceremonies only and must follow the BSA's guidelines for cannon use.)
- Ballistas
- Boomerangs
- Blow guns (including marshmallow)
- Anvil shooting
- Ninja weapons such as stars, spikes, and torpedoes, and activities such as shovel throwing
- Spears
- Spear guns

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- Potato guns

We want safe shooting programs that are valuable for helping young people develop self-confidence, personal discipline, responsibility, teamwork, self-esteem and sportsmanship. The discipline and self-control required for responsible firearms use carries over into many other aspects of life.

Being covered by the BSA Insurance requires you to follow the rules set forth by national and the local council shooting sports committee. If you have any questions contact the GEC Shooting Sports Chair Dennis Weiss dennis.weiss@gec-bsa.org or call him at 209-327-4750

Thanks for all your help and support with the GEC Shooting Sports program!