

SHOTGUN SHOOTING

'Pull!'

Shotgun shooting is the most basic form of marksmanship. During our nation's early days, many settlers relied on their shotguns to keep meat on the table and provide their home with a measure of security. They had to know how their firearms worked, how to use them skillfully and maintain them in good working order, and how to shoot with utmost respect for the safety of themselves and others.

Shotguns have changed since then. Modern shotguns are reliable and efficient. Some shotgunners shoot at target ranges. Others enjoy the special thrill and challenge of stalking game in the field. Still others aspire to compete on the national or international level.

You won't be ready for the Olympics after this month's meetings and activities. But you will gain a solid understanding of firearm safety and shooting technique while enjoying some exciting target games.

Objectives

This month's activities should:

- Introduce the rules of safe gun handling.
- Teach Scouts to identify the parts of a shotgun and a shotgun shell.
- Demonstrate the fundamentals of shotgun shooting.
- Let Scouts experience the satisfaction of improving their shotgun skills.
- Show Scouts how to react to shotgun shell malfunctions.
- Introduce Scouts to popular games of shotgun shooting.

RELATED ADVANCEMENT AND AWARDS

- Archery, Rifle Shooting, and Shotgun Shooting merit badges
- Ranger: Shooting Sports elective
- Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program awards
- NRA Outstanding Youth Achievement Award
- BSA Shooting Sports Outstanding Achievement Award



Leadership Planning

As a leadership team, you may want to discuss the following items during your planning meetings when choosing shotgun shooting as your program feature.

1. What is our unit's current skill level?
2. Do we have a copy of the current *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual* for reference?
3. Do we need firearms for our demonstrations, and what are the BSA rules for handling them?
4. What certified BSA National Camping School shooting sports director or NRA shotgun instructor or NRA coach will assist us?
5. Where can we hold meetings and outings?
6. How will we cover the cost of shotgun shells and other expenses?
7. What will we do for our main event?
8. To meet our needs, what should we change in the sample meeting plans?

PARENTS CAN HELP WITH THE SHOTGUN SHOOTING PROGRAM FEATURE BY:

1. Teaching safe gun handling and shotgun skills if they are a currently certified BSA National Camping School shooting sports director OR certified NRA shotgun instructor OR certified NRA coach
2. Pursuing instructor certification if the unit plans to continue doing shotgun activities
3. Arranging for the unit to use the facilities of a Scouting-friendly gun club
4. Providing transportation for the main event
5. Serving as trappers and scorekeepers at the main event

6. Maintaining current Youth Protection certification, which is required of all adults providing transportation for or participating in outings

SHOTGUN SHOOTING INFORMATION

Excerpts From the *Guide to Safe Scouting*

The Boy Scouts of America adheres to its long-standing policy of teaching its youth and adult members the safe, responsible, intelligent handling, care, and use of firearms, air rifles, BB guns, and archery equipment in planned, carefully managed, and supervised programs.

The *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual* includes all of the information you will need pertaining to permitted guns used at each level of Scouting, the required range supervision, and the training that Scouts must have for each activity.

This month's meeting plans assume that you have access to unloaded shotguns and dummy ammunition. If your meeting place does not allow guns, these sessions may need to take place at a different location. Be sure to check the firearms policies of the proposed venue. An instructor must be present.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL SHOOTING SPORTS COMMITTEE TO:

- Reserve the shooting sports venues at your council camp properties.
- Find a gun club or other facility that will host your unit.
- Seek a certified NRA certification as a shotgun instructor or range safety officer.



National Rifle Association Rules for Safe Gun Handling

Follow these rules whenever you handle a gun:

ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.

This is the primary rule of gun safety. A safe direction means that 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 different circumstances.

ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot. When holding a gun, rest your finger on the trigger guard or along the side of the gun. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.

ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use. Whenever you pick up a gun, immediately engage the safety device if possible. If the gun has a magazine, remove it before opening the action and looking into the chamber(s), which should be clear of ammunition. 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.

When using or storing a gun, always follow these rules:

Know your target and what is beyond. Be absolutely sure you have identified your target beyond any doubt. Equally important, be aware of the area beyond your target. This means observing your prospective area of fire before you shoot. Never fire in a direction in which there are people or any other potential for mishap. Think first. Shoot second.

Know how to use the gun safely. Before handling a gun, learn how it operates. Know its basic parts, how to safely open and close the action, and how to remove any ammunition from the gun or magazine. Remember, a gun's mechanical safety device is never foolproof. Nothing can ever replace safe gun handling.

Be sure the gun is safe to operate. Just like other tools, guns need regular maintenance to remain operable. Regular cleaning and proper storage are a part of the gun's general upkeep. If there is any question concerning a gun's ability to function, a knowledgeable gunsmith should look at it.

Use only the correct ammunition for your gun. Only BBs, pellets, cartridges, or shells designed for a particular gun can be fired safely in that gun. Most guns have the ammunition type stamped on the barrel. Ammunition can be identified by information printed on the box and sometimes stamped on the cartridge. Do not shoot the gun unless you know you have the proper ammunition.

Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate. Guns are loud, and the noise can cause hearing damage. They can also emit debris and hot gas that could cause eye injury. For these reasons, shooting glasses and hearing protectors should be worn by shooters and spectators.

Never use alcohol or over-the-counter, prescription, or other drugs before or while shooting. Alcohol, as well as any other substance likely to impair normal mental or physical bodily functions, must not be used before or while handling or shooting guns.

Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons. Dozens of gun storage devices, as well as locking devices that attach directly to the gun, are available. However, mechanical locking devices, like the mechanical safeties built into guns, can fail and should not be used as a substitute for safe gun handling and the observance of all gun safety rules.

Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.

For more detailed information, see the *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet.



NOTE TO THE LEADER

Unit leadership must always take responsibility to ensure that all instruction involving any handling of firearms or live ammunition is supervised by a currently certified BSA National Camping School shooting sports director or National Rifle Association shotgun instructor or NRA coach.

If instruction and shooting are to occur at the same time, both the range safety officer (RSO) and shotgun instructor must be present. The RSO and shotgun instructor may not be the same person. Note that commercial shooting ranges may provide RSOs. See the *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual* for further details about the shooting sports program. Prerequisite training, including the NRA First Steps Shotgun Orientation or NRA Basic Shotgun Course, may need to be conducted in advance, depending on the level of the planned activity.

The following standards are established for Scouts and Venturers regarding shotgun usage.

1. Modern sporting shotguns of any gauge may be used. However, experience shows that beginning shooters will be more successful with a 20- or 12-gauge shotgun, putting more shot to the target. Youth- and adult-size gas-operated semi-automatic shotguns are recommended.
2. Current manufactured shotshells of the appropriate gauge containing No. 7½ to No. 9 shot may be used. A shot size larger than No. 7½ is not to be used. Reloads may not be used in BSA shooting sports programs.
3. Shooting safety glasses and hearing protection must be worn on shotgun ranges.
4. Care must be taken to comply with federal, state, and local laws.

Fundamentals of Shotgun Shooting

The fundamentals below form the foundation of successful shooting. Using them correctly and consistently every time provides successful shooting whether you are a beginner or an expert.

Shooting position (stance). Your shooting position must be relaxed and comfortable. Do not strain your muscles. Plant your feet firmly on the ground about shoulder width apart. Your front knee should be bent slightly while your back leg remains straight. This position provides proper balance and the ability to move.

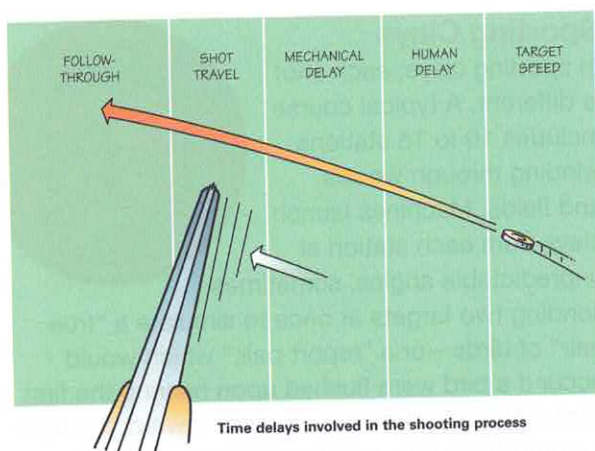
Shot preparation (gun-ready position). This is the position you hold while waiting for the target to appear. Maintain your basic shooting stance, with your trigger hand placed on the grip of the stock and your nontrigger hand at about the middle of the shotgun forearm. The grip of both hands should be firm but not so tight as to create strain. The rear position of the stock is positioned along the front side of your ribs. The muzzle is placed slightly below the expected flight path of the target. Both eyes should be open and focused in the area where you expect the target will first appear.

Swing to target. On first seeing the target, quickly move your gun and body as a single unit in a smooth movement toward the target, raising the gun into the correct firing position. To achieve this position:

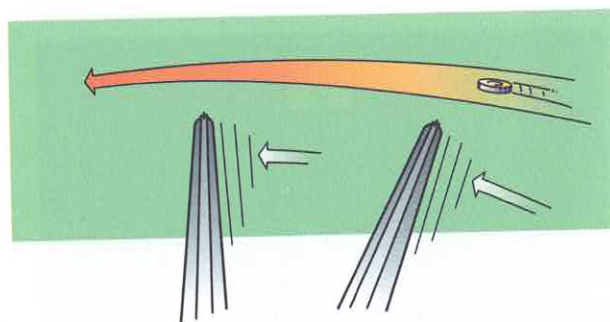
- Keep your eyes focused on the target at all times.
- Position your face firmly against the stock.
- Bring the trigger hand elbow into position about level with the shoulders.
- Place the butt of the stock against the shoulder.

With correct gun fit, the barrel will be aligned in front of your dominant eye and with the target.

Note: Unlike lining up the sights of a rifle, sighting is more of a pointing motion with your shotgun.



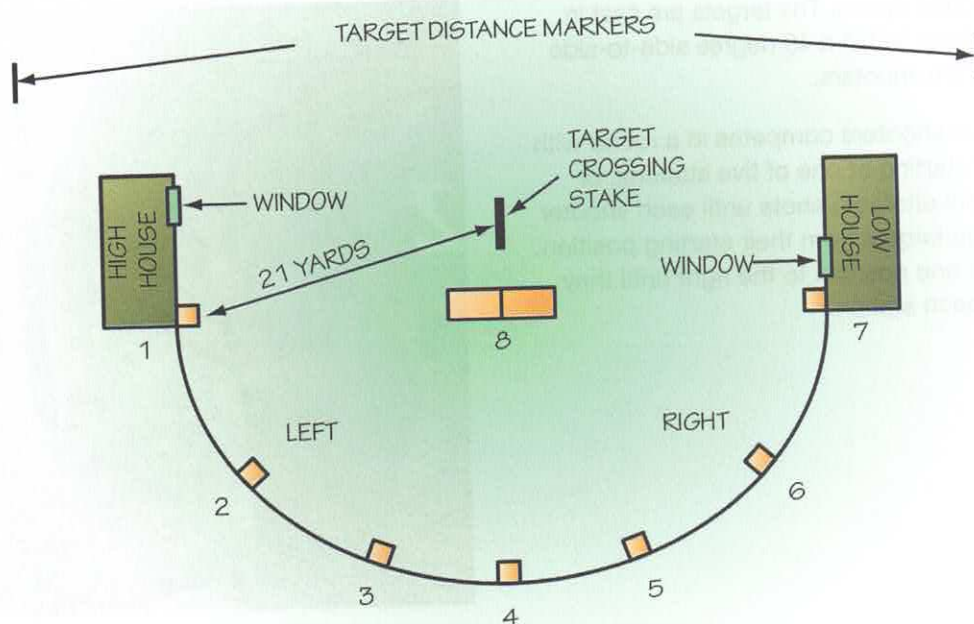
Trigger pull. This should take place at the instant when, looking at the moving target, you see your gun's muzzle touch it. Timing and reflex are essential; your pull must be quick and crisp, but be careful not to jerk the gun.

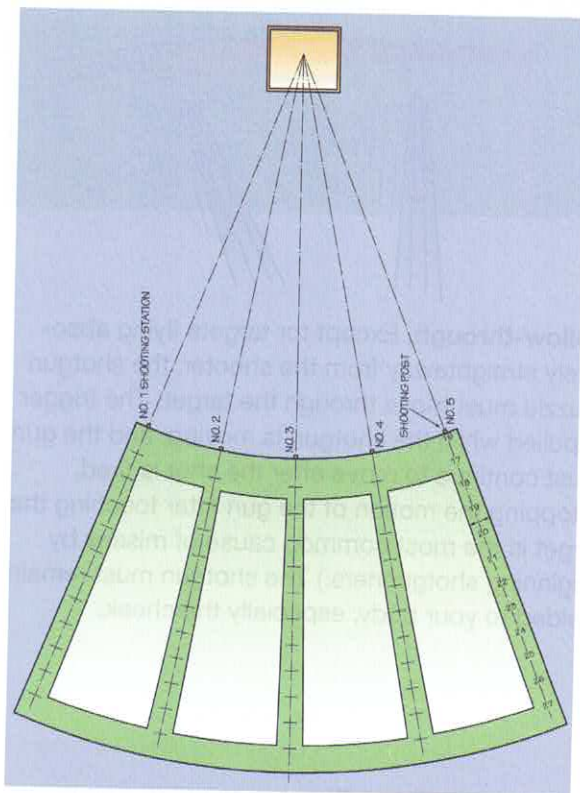


Follow-through. Except for targets flying absolutely straightaway from the shooter, the shotgun muzzle must move through the target. The trigger is pulled while the shotgun is moving, and the gun must continue to move after the shot is fired. (Stopping the motion of the gun after touching the target is the most common cause of misses by beginning shotgunners.) The shotgun must remain welded to your body, especially the cheek.

Skeet

In skeet shooting, targets are cast away from the shooters at various angles. Targets can cross, come straight toward you, or move away from you. Shooters stand in a semicircular field with multiple stations, and they move from one station to the next. Targets are thrown by two machines. The "high house" launches targets from a point high off the ground. The "low house" launches targets from somewhere around waist level. From each station, the shooter shoots one target from each house. Positions 1, 2, 6, and 7 include "doubles" where targets are thrown from the high and low houses simultaneously, and the shooter fires two shots. The 25th shot is fired when a shooter scores the first miss.





Trap

In trap shooting with multiple shooters, they stand in a slight semicircular line, side by side, as moving targets are launched from a partially underground bunker. Targets are thrown 16 yards in front of the primary shooting line at about 42 mph and in a consistent vertical angle to simulate wild birds flying away from a hunter. The targets are cast in random directions within a 45 degree side-to-side arc relative to the shooters.

A squad of five shooters competes in a round with each shooter starting at one of five stations, or posts. Shooters alternate shots until each shooter has fired at five targets from their starting position. Shooters shift one position to the right until they have shot at each station.

Sporting Clays

In sporting clays, each shot is different. A typical course includes 10 to 15 stations winding through woods and fields. Machines launch clays from each station at unpredictable angles, sometimes sending two targets at once to simulate a “true pair” of birds—or a “report pair,” which would occur if a bird were flushed upon hearing the first shot. Other clays may fly straight toward you from a clump of bushes or roll across the ground to simulate a rabbit on the run.



Five Stand

In five stand shooting, there are more crossing and flying patterns than skeet, and it is faster and less expensive than sporting clays. The clays are thrown from six to eight different launchers placed to the left, right, or straight ahead of the five shooting stations, or even from behind the shooter. Each shooter gets five target “presentations” at each station for a round of 25 shots. As an alternative, try playing Scouting clays, a modified five stand game where the focus is on going-away targets at less than 20 degrees; a wobble trap might be added in front of the shooter.





SHOTGUN SHOOTING GAMES



Name That Shotgun Part

Equipment: For each team, a graphic of a shotgun enlarged and posted or projected on a wall with an arrow pointing to each part; the gun parts written on individual label cards (one set per team) with loops of painter's tape on the back

How to play: Place label cards face down on a table at the start line, 10 to 15 feet from the wall. Teams line up relay-style. On a signal, the first player on each team runs to the table, picks up a label, and places it on the arrow that points to the correct part. He or she then runs back to tag the next player, who can place another card or correct what their teammate did.

Scoring: The team with the fastest time with all items correct wins.

Notes: For a sample graphic, see the BSA 30-minute Shotgun Briefing available at www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/shooting-sports/boy-scout-shooting-sports. You could also use a single graphic (enlarged or projected on the wall) and different colored labels for each team.

Shoot the Gap

Equipment: Chalk or tape to mark two horizontal goal lines, one at each end of the playing area

How to play: One player is named guardian of the gap (the space between the goal lines). The other players are divided into two teams, one behind each line. The guardian, standing in the center of the gap, calls the name of a player on one team. That player immediately shouts the name of a player on the other team. These two players must then try to change goals without being tagged by the guardian. If the guardian tags one of them, it's time to change places:

The guardian joins the team that the tagged player was running toward, and the tagged player becomes the guardian for the next round.

Scoring: None; this game is just for fun.

Note: If the guardian calls the same name time after time, make a rule that after a player has run, they step back from the goal line and cannot run again until all have participated.

Moving Targets

Equipment: Several playground balls (or soccer balls, basketballs, etc.); three to five tennis balls per participant

How to play: Form two teams. One team tries to roll the playground balls back and forth across an open area while the other team tries to hit those balls with tennis balls. Allow the tennis balls to be "reloaded" a couple of times and then have the teams change positions.

Scoring: Award 1 point for each playground ball hit by a tennis ball. After both teams have had the chance to throw the tennis balls, the team with the most points wins.

Notes: Players must not aim tennis balls at each other. They should target the playground balls in the middle of the play area, not on either side.

Follow-Through

Equipment: A bright flashlight with a narrow beam and a laser pointer

How to play: While the game leader sweeps the laser pointer across a wall to represent a target, a player tries to intercept the path with the flashlight beam. The player assumes the proper shooting stance in line with the point where they expect to hit the target. When the player calls "pull," the game leader sweeps the laser beam across the wall at a reasonable, steady speed. Allow three to four pulls per player.

Scoring: Hitting the target earns 1 point; the team with the most points wins.

Notes: This game lets Scouts practice follow-through. A shotgun must continue moving after a shot is fired, making follow-through one of the most difficult fundamentals of shotgun shooting.



E.D.G.E. Ideas

Explain how it is done—Tell them.

Demonstrate the steps—Show them.

Guide learners as they practice—Watch them do it.

Enable them to succeed on their own—Have them practice/teach it.

EXPLAIN

- Explain the NRA rules for safe gun handling.
- Describe the parts of the different shotguns.
- Explain the fundamentals of shotgun shooting.
- Introduce the requirements for shotgun-related badges and awards.
- Explain the rules of shotgun games.

GUIDE

- Guide Scouts as they practice safe gun handling.
- Have Scouts label the parts of a shotgun to demonstrate their knowledge.
- At a shooting range, guide Scouts as they shoot shotguns for the first time; help them correct any errors they make.
- Guide Scouts through the process of cleaning and storing firearms.

DEMONSTRATE

- Demonstrate the steps in safe gun handling.
- Show the different parts of a shotgun.
- Display different shotgun shells and explain how to determine which type to use.
- Show a disassembled shotgun shell (or pictures) so Scouts understand how shells are constructed.
- Demonstrate the fundamentals of shotgun shooting.
- Demonstrate how to safely clean and store the shotgun.

ENABLE

- Have Scouts review the rules of safe gun handling with a buddy.
- Form coach/pupil teams where Scouts help each other practice the fundamentals of shotgun shooting while shooting a round of clays.
- Participate in a day of shooting as a unit.
- Volunteer at a sporting clays tournament as a unit.

MAIN EVENT SUMMARIES

● ESSENTIAL

Day Activity

Trap shooting field trip—Visit a trap club. Tour the facility, see how targets are launched, and then practice shooting slow and straight trap.

■ CHALLENGING

Overnight Activity

Shotgun shooting campout—On a regular campout and in an appropriate venue under the appropriate supervision (see the Shooting Sports section in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*), set up a shotgun range and practice shooting clays. This may be combined with other shooting sports if the location is appropriate.

◆ ADVANCED

Weekend Activity

Sporting clays tournament—Take part in a sporting clays tournament as volunteers. Learn how the tournament is organized. Assist in setting up, scoring, and officiating.



SHOTGUN SHOOTING

Meeting Plan: NRA Rules and Parts of a Gun



Week 1 Date _____

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	RUN BY	TIME*
Preopening 15 minutes before meeting	Invite a Shotgun Shooting merit badge counselor to set up a display of different types of shotguns that early arrivers can examine.		6:45 p.m.
Opening Ceremony 10 minutes	Flag presentation Oath and Law Uniform inspection		7 p.m.
Group Instruction 10 minutes	Teach the fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling.		7:10 p.m.
Skills Instruction 40 minutes	Learn the parts of a semiautomatic shotgun.		7:20 p.m.
	Learn the parts of semiautomatic and pump-action shotguns.		
	Learn the parts of semiautomatic, pump-action, hinge-action, and bolt-action shotguns, or learn the parts of a black powder shotgun.		
Breakout Groups 15 minutes	Work on basic Scouting skills or advancement requirements as appropriate to the groups.		8 p.m.
Game 10 minutes	Play Name That Shotgun Part (described earlier).		8:15 p.m.
Closing 5 minutes	Announcements Leader's minute Closing		8:25 p.m.
Total 90 minutes of meeting			
After the Meeting 15 minutes	Leadership team reviews plans for the next meeting and for the main event.		

*All times are suggested.



SHOTGUN SHOOTING

Meeting Plan: Ammunition



Week 2 Date _____

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	RUN BY	TIME*
Preopening 15 minutes before meeting	Invite a Shotgun Shooting merit badge counselor to set up a display of different types of shells that early arrivers can examine. Provide copies of the Shotgun Shooting merit badge requirements.		6:45 p.m.
Opening Ceremony 10 minutes	Flag presentation Oath and Law Uniform inspection		7 p.m.
Group Instruction 10 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discuss the importance of knowing what type of ammunition you need and where you would find this information.Explain the difference between 20-gauge and 12-gauge shells and how to identify the proper shells for a gun.		7:10 p.m.
Skills Instruction 40 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Learn how to properly load and unload a semiautomatic shotgun using dummy ammunition.Discuss different ammunition malfunctions and what to do if one occurs.		7:20 p.m.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Learn how to properly load and unload semiautomatic and pump-action shotguns using dummy ammunition.Discuss different ammunition malfunctions and what to do if one occurs.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Learn how to properly load and unload semiautomatic, pump-action, hinge-action, and bolt-action shotguns using dummy ammunition.Discuss different ammunition malfunctions and what to do if one occurs.		
Breakout Groups 15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Begin planning for participation in the main event.Work on Scout skills or advancement requirements as needed.		8 p.m.
Game 10 minutes	Play Shoot the Gap (described earlier).		8:15 p.m.
Closing 5 minutes	Announcements Leader's minute Closing		8:25 p.m.
Total 90 minutes of meeting			
After the Meeting 15 minutes	Leadership team reviews plans for the next meeting and for the main event.		

*All times are suggested.






SHOTGUN SHOOTING

Meeting Plan: Clays and the Fundamentals of Shooting



Week 3 Date _____

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	RUN BY	TIME*
Preopening 15 minutes before meeting	Show an internet video of different shooting games including skeet, sporting clays, and others.		6:45 p.m.
Opening Ceremony 10 minutes	Flag presentation Oath and Law Uniform inspection		7 p.m.
Group Instruction 10 minutes	Review the various types of clay targets and launchers, and describe the differences. If possible, have spring, automatic, and hand-thrown launchers on hand to show.		7:10 p.m.
Skills Instruction 40 minutes   	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review the five fundamentals of shotgun shooting: shooting position, shot preparation, swing to target, trigger pull, and follow-through.Have Scouts learn how to determine their eye dominance.		7:20 p.m.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review the above skills.Discuss how to select a shotgun that fits the user.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Review the above skills.Discuss additional considerations that relate to black powder shooting.		
Breakout Groups 15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Each group fills out a duty roster for the main event.Collect any permission slips required for shooting activities.		8 p.m.
Game 10 minutes	Play Moving Targets (described earlier).		8:15 p.m.
Closing 5 minutes	Announcements Leader's minute Closing		8:25 p.m.
Total 90 minutes of meeting			
After the Meeting 15 minutes	Leadership team reviews plans for the next meeting and for the main event.		

*All times are suggested.






SHOTGUN SHOOTING

Meeting Plan: Caring for a Shotgun



Week 4 Date _____

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	RUN BY	TIME*
Preopening 15 minutes before meeting	Set up computers or tablets that early arrivers can use to research state hunting laws and state hunter education courses, or provide information on these topics. (This relates to requirement 1f of the Shotgun Shooting merit badge.)		6:45 p.m.
Opening Ceremony 10 minutes	Flag presentation Oath and Law Uniform inspection		7 p.m.
Group Instruction 5 minutes	Discuss the importance of cleaning, proper care, and storage of shotguns.		7:10 p.m.
Skills Instruction 45 minutes   	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn how to clean a semiautomatic shotgun.• Review the requirements for the Shotgun Shooting merit badge and the Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program for shotgun.		7:15 p.m.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn how to clean semiautomatic and pump-action shotguns.• Learn the basics of the games of trap and skeet.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn how to clean multiple action types.• Learn the basics of the games of trap, skeet, and sporting clays.		
Breakout Groups 15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalize plans for participation in the main event.• Work on Scouting skills and advancement requirements as needed.		8 p.m.
Game 10 minutes	Play Follow-Through (described earlier).		8:15 p.m.
Closing 5 minutes	Announcements Leader's minute Closing		8:25 p.m.
Total 90 minutes of meeting			
After the Meeting 15 minutes	Leadership team reviews plans for the next meeting and for the main event.		

*All times are suggested.



SHOTGUN SHOOTING

Main Event: Trap Shooting Field Trip



Date _____

Logistics

Location: _____

Departure time: _____

Return time: _____

Duration of activity: 4 to 6 hours

Budget: Completed _____ Approved _____

Camping: Duty roster _____ Menu _____

Transportation: Group _____ Self _____

Essential (Tier I)

Visit a trap club. Tour the facility, see how targets are launched, and then practice shooting slow and straight trap.

Equipment List

- Proper firearms
- Ammunition
- Eye and ear protection
- Targets
- Handwashing stations
- Cleaning supplies

Note: See the *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual* for a complete list of equipment.

Activity

- Travel to the facility.
- Complete a range safety and shooting facility orientation.
- Review the rules of safe shooting.
- Practice shooting slow, straightaway targets.
- As time allows, work on the Shotgun Shooting merit badge, the Venturing Ranger Award Shooting Sports elective, and/or the Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program for recreational clay target shooting.
- Thank the safety officer and instructors at the end of the event.
- With a partner, properly clean and store your shotgun.

Safety

- Refer to the Level 2 (Open Shooting) requirements outlined in chapter 1 of the *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual*.
- The 30-minute shotgun safety briefing must be presented by an NRA shotgun instructor prior to the shooting activity. A PowerPoint presentation of this briefing is available at www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/shooting-sports/boy-scout-shooting-sports/
- Two-deep adult leadership is required for all activities.

Notes

One certified NRA range safety officer must directly supervise all live fire on the shotgun field. Additionally, one NRA shotgun instructor for each active shooter is required when loading and firing a shotgun.



SHOTGUN SHOOTING

Main Event: Shotgun Shooting Campout



Date _____

Logistics

Location: _____

Departure time: _____

Return time: _____

Duration of activity: Overnight

Budget: Completed _____ Approved _____

Camping: Duty roster _____ Menu _____

Transportation: Group _____ Self _____

Challenging (Tier II)

On a regular campout and in an appropriate venue under the appropriate supervision (see the Shooting Sports section in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*), set up a shotgun range and practice shooting clays. This may be combined with other shooting sports if the location is appropriate.

Equipment List

- Proper firearms
- Ammunition
- Eye and ear protection
- Targets
- Handwashing stations
- Cleaning supplies
- Camping gear as appropriate
- Scout Basic Essentials
- Food

Note: See the *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual* for a complete list of equipment.

Activity

- Travel to the facility.
- Set up camp and do other activities as appropriate.
- Complete a range safety and shooting facility orientation.
- Review the rules of safe shooting.
- Review the rules and etiquette of shotgun games.
- Enjoy open shooting, trap, Scouting clays, or other games.
- As time allows, work on the Shotgun Shooting merit badge, the Venturing Ranger Award Shooting Sports elective, and/or the Winchester/NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program for recreational clay target or trap shooting.
- Thank the safety officer and instructors at the end of the event.
- With a partner, properly clean and store your shotgun.

Safety

- Refer to the Level 3 (Ongoing Shooting Sports Program) requirements outlined in chapter 1 of the *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual*.
- Training: NRA Shotgun FIRST Steps (three hours) or NRA Basics of Shotgun Shooting Course (eight hours). Taught by a National Camping School shooting sports director certified as an NRA shotgun instructor, or an NRA certified shotgun instructor. Use Appendix 1 of the *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual*, titled "NRA FIRST Steps/BSA Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge Teaching Guide," as the training syllabus for the FIRST Steps or the Shotgun Shooting merit badge.
- Two-deep adult leadership is required for all activities.

Notes

One certified NRA range safety officer must directly supervise all live fire on the shotgun field. Additionally, one NRA shotgun instructor for each active shooter is required when loading and firing a shotgun.



SHOTGUN SHOOTING

Main Event: Sporting Clays Tournament



Date _____

Logistics

Location: _____

Departure time: _____

Return time: _____

Duration of activity: Weekend

Budget: Completed _____ Approved _____

Camping: Duty roster _____ Menu _____

Transportation: Group _____ Self _____



Advanced (Tier III)

Take part in a sporting clays tournament as volunteers. Learn how the tournament is organized. Assist in setting up, scoring, and officiating.

Equipment List

- Skeet field or a five stand or sporting clays course
- Proper firearms (semiautomatic preferred)
- 12- or 20-gauge #8 shotgun shells
- Targets
- Handwashing stations
- Cleaning supplies
- Camping gear as appropriate
- Scout Basic Essentials
- Food

Activity

- Research sporting clays opportunities in your area.
- Make arrangements to volunteer at a sporting clays tournament.
- Travel to the facility.
- Set up camp and do other activities as desired.
- Complete a range safety and shooting facility orientation.
- Review the rules of safe shooting.
- Review the rules and etiquette of shotgun games.
- Participate in the tournament as volunteers.
- Assist with cleanup.
- Properly clean and store shotguns.
- Send thank-you notes to those who assisted.

Safety

- Refer to the Level 3 (Ongoing Shooting Sports Program) requirements outlined in chapter 1 of the *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual*.
- Training: NRA Shotgun FIRST Steps (three hours) or NRA Basics of Shotgun Shooting Course (eight hours). Taught by a National Camping School shooting sports director certified as an NRA shotgun instructor, or an NRA certified shotgun instructor. Use Appendix 1 of the *BSA National Shooting Sports Manual*, titled "NRA FIRST Steps/BSA Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge Teaching Guide," as the training syllabus for the FIRST Steps or the Shotgun Shooting merit badge.
- At a minimum, the NRA FIRST Steps Shotgun Orientation must be completed prior to the shooting activity.
- Two-deep adult leadership is required for all activities.

Notes

One certified NRA range safety officer must directly supervise all live fire on the shotgun field. Additionally, one NRA shotgun instructor for each active shooter is required when loading and firing a shotgun.



RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

Books

Archery, Rifle Shooting, and Shotgun Shooting merit badge pamphlets

BSA National Shooting Sports Manual

Barsness, John. *Shotguns for Wingshooting*. Krause Publications, 1999.

Batha, Chris. *Breaking Clays: Target Tactics, Tips & Techniques*. Stackpole Books, 2005.

Bourjaily, Phil. *Field & Stream Shotgun Guide*. Field & Stream, 2013.

Brannon, Mark, and Tom Hanrahan. *Shooting Sporting Clays*. Stackpole Books, 2011.

Heiple, King. *Mastering Skeet: Fundamental Shooting Techniques for Hitting the Target in Championship Form*. Stackpole Books, 2007.

McIntosh, Michael. *Shotguns & Shooting*, volumes 1 and 2. Derrydale Press, 2014.

Muramatsu, Kevin. *The Gun Digest Book of Shotguns Assembly/Disassembly*, 3rd ed. Gun Digest, 2012.

National Rifle Association. *The Basics of Rifle Shooting*. NRA, 1987.

National Rifle Association. *The Basics of Shotgun Shooting*. NRA, 1985.

Russell, John. *Trapshooting Secrets*, 2nd ed. JRC Publishing, 1999.

Websites

Amateur Trapshooting Association

Website: www.shootata.com

National Rifle Association Programs and Services

Website: <https://explore.nra.org/>

National Shooting Sports Foundation

Website: www.nssf.org

National Skeet Shooting Association/National Sporting Clays Association

Website: www.nssa-nsca.org

Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation

Website: <https://sssfonline.org>

Shotgun Sports Magazine

Website: www.shotgunsportsmagazine.com

USA Shooting (Olympics)

Website: www.usashooting.org

Related Program Features

Archery, Rifle Shooting, Spectator Sports

Photo and Illustration Credits

Pages 43-1 (*Scout*, BSA file; Shutterstock.com: *clay pigeons*, ©Pavel Hlystov; *shotgun shells*, ©poramesstock), 43-5 through 43-7 (*illustrations*, BSA/John McDearmon), and 43-6 (*clay pigeon* and *target shooter*, BSA file)

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