



# NCAP Circular No. 21

NCAP elevates camps to new levels of excellence...

National Council, Scouting America

August 25, 2024

## 2024 Range and Target Activities Revisions

As announced at the National Annual Meeting in May, Scouting America has undertaken a comprehensive review of range and target activities, formerly known as shooting sports, that Scouting America provides as part of the Scouting program for youth.

The purpose of Scouting America's range and target activities is, first and foremost, centered around teaching range and firearm safety. Scouting America's range and target activities are developed and implemented through age-appropriate training and experiences. Scouting America adheres to a longstanding policy of teaching its youth and adult members the safe, responsible, and intelligent handling, care, and use of firearms, archery, slingshots, and hand-held throwing sports through planned, carefully managed, and supervised programs for each youth who chooses to participate.

Additionally, Scouting America

believes that participating in range and target activities provides Scouts the opportunity to learn responsibility, self-discipline, problem solving, concentration, sportsmanship while acquiring lifelong skills and possible hobby interest.

Given that Scouting America's interests are centered on introducing the safe handling of firearms, bows and arrows, slingshots and similar hand-thrown sports, Scouting America is implementing the following program adjustments to simplify range and target activities focusing on a safe and quality program and enhancing the overall experience for Scouts and Scouters alike when participating in these activities.

An overall review of the changes made to the range and target activities programs of Scouting America can be found at the following website:

[www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss08/#a](http://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss08/#a). This website sets forth the program changes for the Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouting programs. The purpose of this **NCAP Circular No. 21** is to explain the changes applicable to long-term camps, day camps, and short-term camps effective September 1, 2024, to assist councils and camps in preparing for camp.

### Overview of Standard Changes

From a National Camp Standards perspective, the following major changes are being made.

**Standard PS-213. Range and Target Activities: Archery, Slingshots and Throwing Sports Programs.** This standard now governs all of the archery, slingshots and other throwing sports programs while shooting sports and gas-propelled programs are in Standard PS-214.

The standard references updated range design standards and now explicitly requires that councils develop "standard operating procedures" (SOPs) for each covered range that provides details on required supervision, safety, equipment maintenance and requires each range to be operated pursuant to those SOPs. Sporting Arrows, a "specialty program," provisions follow the primary program requirements.

**Standard PS-214. Range and Target Activities: Firearms and Devices Programs.** This standard governs firearms, BB devices, airsoft guns, and similar devices.

Major changes in Standard PS-214 include:

- **Approved Ranges.** Firearm program use is limited to either approved ranges on

### NCAP Circular No. 21

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## 2024 Range and Target Activities Revisions *continued*

council *camp properties* or commercial ranges. BB devices have more latitude and specialty programs operate according to specific design requirements.

- **Age-Appropriate Restrictions.** (1) Cub Scouts (Tiger through Arrow of Light) may use BB devices at *council-operated programs*; (2) Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts may use pellet rifles on a rifle range at a *long-term camp only*; (3) Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts and Venturers may use the existing Scouts BSA firearms; and (4) Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts and Venturers who are 14 years of age or older, or 13 years of age and completed eighth grade, may also use pistols but only in the NRA FIRST Steps orientation program.
- **No personal firearms or ammunition shall be used for program purposes at a “camp property.”** The first step in program safety is to know the firearms and ammunitions that are being used. Only firearms that are owned by the council may be used as part of the camp program. Councils should contact National Outdoor Programs for assistance with firearm ownership questions.
- **Standard Operating Procedures.** The standard explicitly requires that councils develop “standard operating procedures” (*camp properties*) for each covered range that provides details on required supervision, safety, equipment maintenance and requires each range to be

operated pursuant to those SOPs.

- **Specialty Programs.** The major change is that pistols are being restricted to use solely in conjunction with the NRA FIRST Steps program or when specifically identified in another specialty program. This change also prohibits black powder pistols. A council must conduct a risk review, draft standard operating procedures, and obtain governance approval before offering a specialty program at a camp. The possible specialty programs are: (1) NRA FIRST Steps Pistol Orientation Program; (2) Cowboy Action Shooting Program; (3) Chalk Ball Program; and (4) Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience Program.

### **Standard SQ-407. Range and Target Activities Program Staff.**

This standard combines former Standards SQ-407 (firearms) and SQ-408 (archery) into a single standard addressing all range and target activities. It clarifies when a “range activities director” (formerly shooting sports director) is required for program supervision at a camp. It sets forth the “range supervision” requirements for each type of range. Finally, it sets forth the instructor:participant ratio for each major program and specialty program. Combining all of the programs into a single standard clarifies the relationship between program and range supervision.

### **Implementation Timeline**

As stated at the National Annual Meeting, the changes to the range and target activities area will take effect on **September 1, 2024.**

Councils are expected to ensure that all range and target activities conducted after that date are conducted in accordance with the new National policies and the National Camp Standards. In general, this should be feasible because the majority of changes to the range and target activities affect the Venturing unit program with relatively little impact on the firearms programs offered at most camps and camp properties except the elimination of pistols outside of the NRA FIRST Steps Pistol Orientation Program and where approved in a specialty program. If you have an already announced program where there is concern, contact Brian Gray, NCAP staff advisor, at [NCAP@scouting.org](mailto:NCAP@scouting.org).

### **Council Ownership Waivers**

As noted, some councils may be in jurisdictions that do not allow corporate ownership of firearms. Councils in such jurisdictions may require additional time to make appropriate arrangements that comply with Scouting America policy and the National Camp Standards. If your council is in this situation, please contact Brian Gray, NCAP staff advisor, at [NCAP@scouting.org](mailto:NCAP@scouting.org) and he will work with you to file any necessary waiver requests to minimize program disruption during the transition.

### **Request for Feedback**

Because these changes reflect a change in Scouting America policy, they are not being offered for comment prior to adoption. Nevertheless, if a council or camp identifies problems in the language or unintended consequences, please communicate those discoveries to NCAP at [NCAP@scouting.org](mailto:NCAP@scouting.org) so they can be reviewed and adjustments made if necessary.

# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: ARCHERY, SLINGSHOTS, AND THROWING SPORTS PROGRAMS

(Revised September 1, 2024)

## STANDARD:

If offered, the camp operates safe, age-appropriate archery, slingshots and throwing sports programs.

## Applies to:

## SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

### A. Range Requirements.

1. An archery range shall be designed and posted in accordance with Design Guideline 313. Ranges using compound bows must complete a risk assessment pursuant to Standards PD-111 and PD-112 to determine if such bows may be safely used.
2. A slingshot range shall be designed in general accordance with Design Guideline 313 or 314 adjusted to account for the maximum range of travel and other safety risks identified in a risk assessment completed per Standards PD-111 and PD-112 before starting the program.
3. A throwing sports range shall be designed in general accordance with Design Guideline 350 adjusted to account for the maximum range of travel and other safety risks identified in a risk assessment completed per Standards PD-111 and PD-112 before starting the program.

### B. Standard Operating Procedures.

Each archery, slingshot, and throwing sports range and program shall have appropriate standard operating procedures developed and implemented for the range and activities offered. The standard operating procedures shall address:

1. **Qualified supervision**, which must be present at all times the range is in operation and may vary depending upon the program activity. Qualified supervision must meet the requirements of Standard SQ-407. The minimum ages, instructor-to-participant ratio, and training of each instructor or assistant must be specified in the standard operating procedures. Proof of training must be maintained.
2. **Required program equipment**, which must identify properly sized equipment for use with participants and any age-appropriate restrictions identified by the camp or council pursuant to Standards PD-111 and PD-112. The standard operating procedures shall address required regular inspections, maintenance, and, if applicable, appropriate condemning criteria for when equipment shall be retired.
3. **Equipment storage**, which shall address proper lock up and storage of equipment when not in use.

Day camp

Short-term  
camp

Long-term  
camp

# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: ARCHERY, SLINGSHOTS, AND THROWING SPORTS PROGRAMS

PS-213

(Revised September 1, 2024)

## Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

4. **Safety**, which shall address safety procedures, required safety equipment, and standard first aid for reasonably foreseeable issues. For archery ranges, properly sized equipment such as finger tabs or gloves and forearm guards must be used by everyone as specified in the approved standard operating procedures.
  5. **Access to communication**, which shall address how first aid, emergency services, the range activities director or camp management shall be summoned when needed.
  6. **Slingshots**. Slingshot programs will follow requirements indicated in the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*. Ammunition cannot include glass, steel, marbles, rocks, or any other hard objects that may ricochet (note: clay balls may be used). The standard operating procedures must specify the type of ammunition(s) that may be used.
  7. **Compound bows and throwing sports**. If the archery program will use compound bows or throw objects other than knives or tomahawks that are allowed by the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*, the council shall conduct a risk assessment pursuant to Standards PD-111 and PD-112 to address potential risks to participants. Additional safety, instruction, program equipment maintenance items necessary to accommodate compound bows shall be added to the standard operating procedures. Compound bows shall only be used on ranges approved for their use. The standard operating procedures shall indicate which ranges on camp property (see NCAP Standard SA-001), if any, are approved for compound bows.
  8. **Personal equipment**. The standard operating procedures must specify whether personal archery equipment is allowed and any limits on its use. If not specified, personal equipment is not allowed.
- C. **Range Operation**. The following requirements shall be met when an archery, slingshot, or throwing sports range is in operation:
1. Qualified supervision shall be present. The instructor-to-participant ratio set forth in NCAP Standard SQ-407 and reflected in the range's standard operating procedure shall not be exceeded. Councils may implement more stringent limitations when needed for program safety or quality reasons.
  2. Only programs approved for use on the range may be offered.
  3. Properly sized equipment is issued and used by all participants.
  4. Proper safety protocols shall be followed and participants have appropriate safety gear as required by the standard operating procedures.

# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: ARCHERY, SLINGSHOTS, AND THROWING SPORTS PROGRAMS

(Revised September 1, 2024)

5. All equipment is in good repair.
  6. First aid equipment, supplies, and access to communication are available as set forth in the standard operating procedures.
  7. The standard operating procedures are available and followed. If the standard operating procedures are not available, the range must be shut down until located and implemented.
- D. **Sporting Arrows Program.** In this program, participants shoot Flu Flu arrows at foam disks launched into the air or rolled along the ground by a disk launcher manufactured by LaPorte or Atlas, or equivalent. The following additional requirements apply to sporting arrows programs:
1. Age appropriate requirement. This program is authorized for Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturers.
  2. Council risk review. Prior to offering the program, the council shall:
    - a. Convene a task force to review local, state and federal guidelines, including age restrictions; licensing and/or certification requirements and courses; equipment and personal protective equipment standards; and any other practices or procedures recommended by the original equipment manufacturer or other governing body and shall also evaluate costs, risks to participants, impacts on other camp programs and the camp environment.
    - b. Complete a risk and safety review as required by Standards PD-111 and PD-112 and adopt measures as may be needed to ensure the program conforms to the National Camp Standards and Scouting America's *Guide to Safe Scouting*.
    - c. The task force shall draft standard operating procedures as required by Specific Requirement B, which must include Specific Requirements D.1 and D.3 through D.5.
    - d. The task force report and safety and risk review must be reviewed and approved by the council's executive board or executive committee prior to initiating the program.
    - e. If the council elects to proceed, the council shall submit notice of its initiation of the program annually in the Notice of Intent to Operate.
  3. **Ambient condition restrictions.** The program may not be offered if ambient wind speeds are greater than 30 mph. The program must be outfitted with a means of determining approximate wind speed.

## Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp



# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: ARCHERY, SLINGSHOTS, AND THROWING SPORTS PROGRAMS

PS-213

(Revised September 1, 2024)

## Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

4. **Equipment requirements.**
  - a. Only LaPorte Bowtrap, Atlas Apollo, or equivalent foam disk throwers for projecting the disks, are authorized.
  - b. Bows are limited to a maximum 26-pound pull.
5. In addition to the design requirements of Specific Requirement A.1, the Sporting Arrows course shall follow the Sporting Arrows Design Guide 316.

## INTERPRETATION:

Archery is limited to simple or recurve bows unless the council's standard operating procedures provide for use of compound bows and the range is approved for their use. A compound bow is a bow that uses a system of pulleys and cables or similar system to make it easier to draw the bow.

Throwing sports are limited to items that can be thrown by hand without mechanical assistance and must not be prohibited in the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#). In case of doubt, application should be made for a waiver or variance under Standard SA-005.

## VERIFICATION:

- Observation of standard operating procedures available at program
- Observation of procedures in practice including:
  - o Safety procedures and equipment in proper use
  - o Equipment in good repair
- Review safety areas are properly marked and effective
- Review of proof of training of instructors and assistants.

## REFERENCES:

- Design Guidelines are available at [www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/](http://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/).
- Staffing requirements are set forth in Standard SQ-407.
- Additional information on administering the program is found in the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual* available at [www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/](http://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/).

# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: FIREARMS AND DEVICES PROGRAMS

(Revised September 1, 2024)

## STANDARD:

If offered, the camp operates safe, age-appropriate firearms and devices programs.

## Applies to:

## SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

- A. **Range Requirements.** Firearms activities are confined to ranges designed and approved for that use. An approved range is:
1. A commercial range allowing use of the firearm type; or
  2. A range at a camp property designed in accordance with guidelines at [www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs](http://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs) and approved for use of that firearm type by the council operating the camp property (See SA-001).
  3. For BB devices only, a range designed in accordance with guidelines at [www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs](http://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs) and used as part of a council-operated program.
  4. Specialty programs must meet range design requirements set forth in Specific Requirements H through K.
- B. **Age-Appropriate Restrictions on Device and Firearm Use.** Use of devices and firearms by program participants is limited as follows:
1. Cub Scouts (Tiger through Arrow of Light programs) may only use BB devices in council-operated programs.
  2. At long-term camp only, Cub Scouts (Webelos and Arrow of Light programs only) may use pellet rifles on a range meeting the requirements of Specific Requirement A.
  3. Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturers may use BB devices, chalk ball devices, pellet rifles, Airsoft guns, .22-caliber rimfire bolt-action rifles, shotguns, muzzle-loading rifles and muzzle-loading shotguns on ranges meeting the requirements of Specific Requirement A. If magazines are used, range commands must include “magazines out after firing all your shots” to ensure the firing line is safe and all shots are fired. Except as expressly provided in these standards, tubular magazines for rifles are prohibited.
  4. Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturers who are 14 years of age or older, or are 13 years of age and have completed the eighth grade, may participate in the NRA FIRST Steps Pistol Orientation. Except as expressly provided in these standards, no other pistol program is allowed. Program equipment is limited to pistols and revolvers as follows: .177 pellet pistol; .22 long rifle rimfire; .38 caliber special; or 9 mm only.

Day camp

Short-term  
campLong-term  
camp

# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: FIREARMS AND DEVICES PROGRAMS

PS-214

(Revised September 1, 2024)

## Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term  
camp

Long-term  
camp

- C. **Firearm Equipment Requirements.** Safe, age-appropriate equipment is maintained in good repair and must meet the following requirements:
1. .22-caliber rimfire, bolt-action rifles must have a trigger pull in excess of 3 pounds.
  2. Pellet rifles (CO<sub>2</sub>, pump, break barrel, etc.) are limited to single-shot, designed for target shooting with a look comparable to approved .22 rifles, and have a velocity of 500 to 540 feet per second, with a minimum 2.5 pound trigger pull. Pellet rifle propellant is limited to CO<sub>2</sub> cylinders or air compressor/scuba tanks. If scuba tanks are used, each tank must be labeled appropriately, visually inspected annually, and hydrostatically tested every five years by a qualified technician. Refilling of scuba tanks used for range and target activities is conducted by qualified adults with appropriate controls. Scuba tanks used for range and target activities shall not be used for scuba purposes.
  3. A shotgun is defined as a 20-, 16-, or 12-gauge pump action, break action or semiautomatic shotgun. Consult the *National Range and Target Activities Manual* for additional guidance. No other shotgun type may be used. Trigger pull must be 3.5 pounds or more.
  4. A pistol or revolver is defined as .177 pellet pistol, .22-caliber long rifle rimfire pistol, .38-caliber special, or 9 mm pistol. Trigger pull must be 2.5 pounds or more for single action, 6.5 pounds or more for double action, and both for single action/double action pistols. Pistols/revolvers not meeting these standards are not allowed.
  5. Any firearm for which trigger pull is specified shall be tested with an appropriate weight or scale at least once a week while in use. If any mechanism fails, the firearm is immediately removed from service until repaired and tested. Test documentation is maintained.
  6. The use of personal firearms and personal ammunition is prohibited in all Scouting programs at a camp property (see Standard SA-001). Personal firearms and personal ammunition may be used at a commercial firearm range, subject to restrictions regarding caliber, gauge, and action as described in this standard or in the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*. Councils may adopt additional restrictions in their standard operating procedures.
- D. **Standard Operating Procedures.** Each device or firearms range and program shall have appropriate standard operating procedures developed and implemented for the range and activities offered. The standard operating procedures shall comply with applicable law and address the following:



# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: FIREARMS AND DEVICES PROGRAMS

(Revised September 1, 2024)

1. **Qualified supervision**, which must be present at all times the range is in operation and may vary depending upon the firearms used and program activity. Qualified supervision must meet the requirements of Standard SQ-407. The appropriate ratio of adult instructor to youth participants must be specified for each firearm and program type. The training required for each instructor or assistant (and their responsibilities) must be specified.
  2. **Required program equipment**, which must identify properly sized equipment for use with participants. The standard operating procedures shall address required maintenance and, if applicable, appropriate condemning criteria for when equipment shall be retired.
  3. **Equipment storage**, which shall address proper lock up and storage of equipment when not in use. Safe, separate and locked storage (can be in the same building) is provided for firearms, ammunition, and CO<sub>2</sub> cylinders and bulk tanks.
  4. **Safety**, which shall address safety procedures, required safety equipment and standard first aid for reasonably foreseeable issues. Use of approved shooting glasses and ear protection is required for all participants and instructors. Ear protection is not required for BB devices and pellet rifles.
  5. **Access to communication**, which shall address how first aid, emergency services, the range activities director or camp management shall be summoned when needed.
  6. **Personal equipment at commercial ranges**. Councils may adopt additional restrictions on use of personal firearms or ammunition at commercial ranges when used to support a Scouting program.
- E. **Range Operation**. The following requirements shall be met when a firearms range is in operation:
1. Qualified supervision shall be present. The number of active participants on the firing line shall not exceed the ratio set forth in Standard SQ-407 or the standard operating procedures, whichever is more restrictive.
  2. Only firearms and programs approved for use on the range may be offered.
  3. Properly sized equipment is issued and used by all participants.
  4. Proper safety protocols shall be followed and participants have appropriate safety gear as required by the standard operating procedures.

## Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term  
camp

Long-term  
camp

# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: FIREARMS AND DEVICES PROGRAMS

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## Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term  
camp

Long-term  
camp

5. All equipment is in good repair. First aid equipment, supplies, and access to communication are available as set forth in the standard operating procedures.
  6. The standard operating procedures are available and followed. If the standard operating procedures are not available, the range must be shut down until located and implemented.
- F. **Council Risk Review for Specialty Program Adoption.** Prior to offering any of the programs in Specific Requirements G to J, the council shall:
1. Convene a task force to review local, state and federal guidelines, including age restrictions; licensing and/or certification requirements and courses; equipment and personal protective equipment standards; and any other practices or procedures recommended by the original equipment manufacturer or other governing body and shall also evaluate costs, risks to participants, impacts on other camp programs and the camp environment.
  2. Complete a risk and safety review as required by Standards PD-111 and PD-112 and adopt measures as may be needed to ensure the program conforms to the National Camp Accreditation Program Standards and Scouting America's [\*Guide to Safe Scouting\*](#).
  3. The task force shall draft standard operating procedures as required by Specific Requirement D, which must include the requirements set forth in the standards.
  4. The task force report and safety and risk review must be reviewed and approved by the council's executive board or executive committee prior to initiating the program.
  5. The council shall submit notice of its initiation of the program annually in the Notice of Intent to Operate.
  6. The specialty program may thereafter operate only in accordance with these standards and the approved standard operating procedures.

# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: FIREARMS AND DEVICES PROGRAMS

(Revised September 1, 2024)

- G. **Specialty Program: NRA FIRST Steps Pistol Orientation Program.** Instruction shall follow the NRA FIRST Steps Pistol Orientation Program. No sections shall be moved or changed. Program participation is limited as set forth in Specific Requirement B.4.
- H. **Specialty Program: Cowboy Action Shooting Program.** Instruction shall follow the Cowboy Action Shooting Program section in the current edition Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*.
1. Before moving to the shooting positions, each participant shall participate in a cowboy action shooting safety briefing in the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*.
  2. The course of fire must be clearly explained during the safety briefing so that the participants understand what they are to do at each station and when and where they are to move. No variation from the course of fire is allowed. Different courses of fire consistent with the *National Range and Target Activities Manual* may be used at different sessions.
  3. Each youth participant shall be assisted by an instructor at each shooting position.
  4. For this specialty program only, .22-caliber handguns, bolt-action or lever action .22 rifles, and 12- or 20-gauge shotguns are authorized for this program. Tubular magazines may be used on lever action rifles but only the number of rounds for each participant may be loaded. Only council-approved firearms and ammunition shall be used.
  5. In addition to Specific Requirement A, each cowboy action shooting range is designed in accordance with the Cowboy Action Shooting Program section in the *National Range and Target Activities Manual*.
  6. The instructor responsible for each shooting position shall load the firearms prior to the participant arriving. Participants shall not load the firearms in this program.
- I. **Specialty Program: Chalk Ball Program.** Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturers may participate in the chalk ball program. Instruction shall follow the chalk ball program section in the current edition Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*.
1. Pointing any type of firearm or simulated firearm at any individual is prohibited. Participants shall shoot at targets that are neither living nor human representations.

## Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term  
camp

Long-term  
camp

# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: FIREARMS AND DEVICES PROGRAMS

PS-214

(Revised September 1, 2024)

## Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term  
camp

Long-term  
camp

2. Before moving to the shooting positions, each participant shall participate in a safety briefing using the outline in the chalk ball program section in the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*.
  3. The trail and rules of the trail must be clearly explained during the safety briefing so that the participants understand what they are to do at each station and when and where they are to move. No variation from the trail and its defined shooting areas is allowed.
  4. No variation in the trail and stations is authorized during any session. Different trails and stations consistent with the Chalk Ball Program section in the *National Range and Target Activities Manual* may be used at different sessions.
  5. Range staff must accompany the participants along the trail and at each station. Range staff shall carry the markers in a box between shooting stations; they will also carry the markers between shooting positions.
  6. Only paintball markers using chalk balls or paintballs are authorized for this program. The camp will need an adequate number of chalk ball containers (15 recommended) and targets (10 metal targets and six cowbell targets recommended). Only council-maintained equipment and chalk balls or paintballs shall be used.
  7. The camp will need a supplier/vendor to refill 20-ounce CO<sub>2</sub> canisters. Alternatively, the camp will need an approved CO<sub>2</sub> cylinder (two 50-pound cylinders are recommended) and several 20-ounce CO<sub>2</sub> canisters (a minimum of eight is recommended). If the alternative is chosen, the camp must follow training and safety requirements outlined in its risk review (see Specific Requirement F).
  8. The Laporte throwing system and Flashball® program, or any program shooting a flying target, are not authorized under this standard.
  9. Each range is designed in accordance with Design Guideline 351.
- J. **Specialty Program: Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience Program.** Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturers may participate in the multi-gun Airsoft experience program. The program shall follow the Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience section in the current edition *National Range and Target Activities Manual*.

# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: FIREARMS AND DEVICES PROGRAMS

(Revised September 1, 2024)

1. All Airsoft guns must resemble rifle or shotgun models that are Scouting America approved and are age appropriate. Additional information can be found in the Appendix of the National Range and Target Activities Manual.
2. Fully automatic operation of Airsoft guns is not authorized. All guns must be set to semiautomatic or single shot position. A gun that fires multiple Airsoft BBs at a trigger pull, but does not continue to fire, is not considered fully automatic.
3. Each range is designed in accordance with the Design Guideline 352 in lieu of Specific Requirement A. Each shooting position shall have a ready line and a control line behind each ready line. The coach and instructor must be able to see all areas at all times.

## INTERPRETATION:

A “commercial firearm range” is a supervised facility that offers a controlled environment for safe firearm practice. It will provide shooting lanes, targets, and may offer equipment rentals and training in safe firearm handling and marksmanship. Standard operating procedures are required for each firearm type used on-site. Scouting’s range and target activities must follow all of Scouting’s range and target activities policies or range standard operating procedures that are equivalently stringent, including no variation from Scouting’s limitations on firearms used. These ranges may be operated by a licensed business, a government entity or a nonprofit.

BB devices, chalkball devices, and Airsoft equipment are further defined in the Scouting America *National Range and Target Manual*.

Paintballs are authorized as an alternative to chalk balls under Specific Requirement I.

## VERIFICATION:

- Observation of standard operating procedures available at program
- Observation of procedures in practice including:
  - o Safety procedures and equipment in proper use
  - o Equipment in good repair
  - o Syllabus followed for any Specialty Program
- Review safety areas are properly marked and effective
- Review of proof of training of program supervisor, range supervisor, instructors and assistants, as needed
- Review of age, equipment

## Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term  
camp

Long-term  
camp



# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES: FIREARMS AND DEVICES PROGRAMS

PS-214

(Revised September 1, 2024)

## Applies to:

Day camp

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camp

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camp

## REFERENCES:

Staffing standards are set forth in Standard SQ-407.

Design Guidelines are available at [www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/](http://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/).

Sample Standard Operating Procedures and Specialty Program materials are available in the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*, available at: [www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/](http://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/).

# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES PROGRAM STAFF

(Revised September 1, 2024)

## STANDARD:

If offered, the range and target activities program and each range is adequately staffed by qualified persons.

## Applies to:

## SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD:

- A. **Program supervision.** The range and target activities program is supervised by a range activities director, at least 21 years of age, who holds a valid certificate of training from the Range and Target Activities Section of National Camping School (NCS), except as noted below.
1. The range activities director must hold current USA Level 1 Archery and National Rifle Association (NRA) instructor credentials in each firearm discipline (rifle [also includes BBs and pellets], shotgun, muzzleloading, and pistol) offered at the camp.
  2. For long-term camps, the range activities director must be present in camp when any firearms range is in use.
  3. An NCS-trained range activities director is not required if the camp only offers archery and throwing sports under Standard PS-213 and only offers a BB device, chalk ball, or Airsoft program and no other firearms activities under Standard PS-214.
  4. If an NCS-trained range activities director is not available but required, the camp may be granted a waiver-by-rule so that the range and target activities program may be operated for one season by a currently certified military, law enforcement, 4-H, or NRA (ML4) instructor. Evidence of certification shall include a military range control card, law enforcement instructor credentials from the NRA or state certifying entity, 4-H instructor credentials and/or NRA instructor credentials. NRA coach credentials do not qualify. All credentials must be current; if no expiration date is stated, the credential must have been issued within 5 years before the end of the camping season at which the individual would serve.
- B. **Range supervision.** At all times a range and target activities range at a camp is in operation, one or more qualified persons shall be present at the range who meet the requirements of the Range Supervision Chart applicable to the devices, firearms, archery or throwing sport equipment being used. The range supervisor is responsible for safety and adherence to all applicable standards, policies and procedures. All required certifications must be current from the certifying agency.

Day camp

Short-term  
campLong-term  
camp

# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES PROGRAM STAFF

SQ-407

(Revised September 1, 2024)

## Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

| Range Supervision Chart |   |  |  |
|-------------------------|---|--|--|
| SQ                      | Camp and Range Type   | Range Supervision Required   | Alternate Supervision Option (requires waiver)   |
| 1.                      | <b>Any camp</b> <sup>^</sup><br>Archery range   | Scouting America archery rangemaster* or USA Archery Level 1 instructor, 18 or more years old  | None   |
| 2.                      | <b>Any camp</b> <sup>^</sup><br>Sporting Arrows Range   | USA Archery level 1 instructor, 18 or more years old, and review Sporting Arrows section of <i>National Range and Target Activities Manual</i>   | None   |
| 3.                      | <b>Any camp</b> <sup>^</sup><br>Throwing sports range (except slingshot)  | Individual, 18 or more years old, meeting training requirements in camp's approved standard operating procedures   | As provided in approved standard operating procedures and 18 or more years old   |
| 4.                      | <b>Any camp</b> <sup>^</sup><br>Slingshot range   | Scouting America BB rangemaster* or NCS range activities director or NRA rifle instructor or ML4** instructor** All 18 or more years old   | None   |
| 5.                      | <b>Any camp</b> <sup>^</sup><br>BB range  | Scouting America BB rangemaster* or NCS range activities director or NRA rifle instructor or ML4** instructor** all 18 or more years old   | None   |
| 6.                      | <b>Any camp</b> <sup>^</sup><br>Pellet rifle range<br><i>Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, Venturers any camp; Webelos and Arrow of Light long-term camp only</i> | NCS range activities director or NRA rifle instructor;<br>All 21 or more years old   | ML4** instructor in the discipline offered<br><b>AND</b><br>NRA range safety officer or equivalent RSO from ML4**<br>all 21 or more years old              |
| 7.                      | <b>Long-term camp</b> ;<br>Rifle, shotgun or muzzleloading range  | NCS range activities director with current NRA instructor credential for firearms at range OR NRA instructor with current credentials for the firearms at range; All 21 or more years old                                | ML4** instructor in the discipline offered<br><b>AND</b><br>NRA range safety officer or equivalent RSO from ML4** all 21 or more years old                 |
| 8.                      | <b>Day camp or Short-term camp</b> ; Any firearms range except BB/pellet  | NCS range activities director with current NRA instructor credentials for firearms at range OR Both NRA instructor with current credentials for firearms at range AND NRA range safety officer; all 21 or more years old | ML4** instructor for firearms at range<br><b>AND</b><br>NRA range safety officer or equivalent range safety officer from ML4**<br>all 21 or more years old |
| 9.                      | <b>Any camp</b> <sup>^</sup><br>Pistol range<br><i>Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, Venturers only</i>   | Both NCS range activities director with current NRA pistol instructor credential AND NRA range safety officer; all 21 or more years old  | ML4** instructor for firearms at range AND NRA range safety officer or equivalent range safety officer from ML4**<br>all 21 or more years old              |
| 10.                     | <b>Day camp or Short-term camp</b><br>Cowboy action range   | Each station must have NRA instructor credentials for the firearm (separate certifications required for each firearm) AND NRA RSO; all 21 or more years old  | None   |
| 11.                     | <b>Long-term camp</b><br>Cowboy action range  | Each station must have NRA instructor credentials for the firearm (separate certifications required for each firearm); all 21 or more years old  | None   |
| 12.                     | Chalk Ball range  | NRA range safety officer 18 or more years old  | None   |
| 13.                     | Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience range  | BB rangemaster with Airsoft endorsement OR National Camping School range activities director OR NRA rifle instructor with Airsoft endorsement; all 18 or more years old  | None   |

<sup>^</sup> Camp as defined in NCAP Standard SA-001.

\* Archery or BB Rangemaster is trained by a National Camping School range activities director or National Rifle Association rifle instructor (BB guns only). This individual is in charge of the firing line at any time it is in operation.

\*\* ML4 – Rifle instructor from military, law enforcement, 4-H in the discipline offered. These individuals also must review Cub Scout shooting sports guide of the *National Range and Activities Manual* and be familiar with Cub Scout shooting sports if program is offered to Cub Scouts.

# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES PROGRAM STAFF

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- C. **Range Instructor/Participant Ratios and Instructor Training Requirements.** Except as provided in Specific Requirements D through G, the following instructor:maximum number of participant ratios shall be met:
1. **Archery ranges:** 1 instructor to 8 participants except sporting arrows ranges, where the ratio is 1 instructor to 3 participants. Archery staff must be trained by a range supervisor or firing line supervisor who is a USA Archery Level 1 or higher instructor, who must issue a training course pocket certificate. The certificate must be renewed every two years. The range supervisor and staff supervising the firing line must be 18 years of age, but other staff assisting with the program may be younger.
  2. **Slingshot ranges:** 1 instructor to 4 participants for Scouts BSA, Sea Scouts, and Venturers; 1 instructor to 1 participant for Cub Scouts. Instructors and assistant/volunteers must be the age required by and trained in accordance with the approved standard operating procedures.
  3. **Throwing sports ranges** (other than slingshot): 1 instructor to 4 participants unless otherwise provided in camp's approved standard operating procedures, which may be more restrictive. Instructors and assistants/volunteers must be the age required and trained in accordance with the approved standard operating procedures.
  4. **Rifle, pellet rifle, and BB ranges:** 1 instructor to 8 participants. For each additional 8 participants or fraction thereof, the minimum requirement is an 18 or more year old instructor trained by the range activities director in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures using, at a minimum, the NRA FIRST Steps three-hour training (for rifle and pellet guns) or the BB rangemaster training for BB devices in the *Scouting America National Range and Target Activities Manual*, as applicable.
  5. **Muzzleloading rifle:** 1 instructor to 8 participants for instruction. 1 instructor to 1 participant when loading and firing.
  6. **Shotgun or muzzleloading shotgun range:** 1 instructor to 6 participants for instruction. 1 instructor to 1 participant when loading and firing. Each instructor must hold current NRA instructor credential.

## Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term  
camp

Long-term  
camp

# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES PROGRAM STAFF

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## Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term  
camp

Long-term  
camp

7. **Range supervisor as an instructor.** At long-term camps only, the range supervisor under Specific Requirement B may be counted as one of the instructors for purposes of the instructor-to-participant ratio. At day camps, short-term camps, and long-term camps, alternative supervision (SQ-407 A.4) where two individuals are specified as the required range supervision, one of the supervisors must serve as range safety officer and may not serve as one of the instructors..

D. **NRA FIRST Steps Pistol Orientation Program.** The range supervision shall be a current NRA RSO or NRA Chief RSO, who may supervise up to six instructor:participant pairs. The instructor:participant ratio shall be one instructor to one participant ratio with each instructor being a current NRA Pistol Instructor (not Assistant or Apprentice). The individual serving as RSO may not serve as an instructor.

E. **Cowboy Action Shooting Program.**

1. Each shooting position will have a qualified NRA-certified pistol, rifle, or shotgun instructor, depending on the firearm at the shooting position. Note: An NCS range activities director may also serve as instructor if they are certified in the firearm used at the shooting position.
2. The instructor-to-participant ratio when on the range working with firearms in this program is one instructor to every one participant, regardless of the firearm (1:1 instructor-to-participant ratio).
3. The range supervisor must hold a current NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO) certification.

F. **Chalk Ball Program.**

1. The chalk ball trail/course shall be under the supervision of an NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO).
2. The instructor-to-participant ratio when on the range working with chalk ball is one instructor to every one participant (1:1 instructor-to-participant ratio).



# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES PROGRAM STAFF

(Revised September 1, 2024)

## G. Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience Program.

1. Each bay in a multi-gun Airsoft experience must be supervised by an Airsoft instructor, who must be a Scouting America BB rangemaster, a Scouting America range activities director, or an NRA instructor, and all of whom also require an Airsoft endorsement. An Airsoft endorsement may be granted by the local Scout executive (or designee) if the requirements of the Multi-Gun Airsoft Experience Operations section of the current edition Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual* are met. The endorsement is evidenced by a certification valid for two years.
2. The instructor-to-participant ratio when on the range working with multi-gun Airsoft is one instructor to every one participant (1:1 instructor-to-participant ratio). It is recommended that each bay also have a coach who is an individual authorized by the Airsoft instructor. If there is no coach, the Airsoft instructor shall perform the duties of coach.

## INTERPRETATION:

An NCS-trained range activities director includes an NCS-trained shooting sports director until the expiration of their NCS certification.

The **program supervisor** is the individual responsible for supervising the camp's range and target activities program. The program supervisor must be an NCS range activities director for a long-term camp, day camp, or short-term camp that offers a firearms program other than BBs. For a long-term camp only, the range activities director must be at the camp at any time any of the firearms programs (other than BB) is operating. For day camps and short-term camps, the range activities director does not need to be at camp as long as the director has reviewed and approved the program and staffing. An NCS trained range activities director is NOT required for those camps that only offer archery, throwing sports, BB gun, chalk ball, or Airsoft programs.

In addition, the range activities director shall have current NRA, USAA or Scouting America certifications as an instructor for each range which they may personally supervise (archery, throwing sports, rifle, including pellet and BB guns; muzzle loading; shotgun; and/or pistol). An NCS range and activities director may also serve as a range supervisor if they are physically present on the range and have a current instructor card for the bows, throwing implements or firearms being used.

## Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term camp

Long-term camp

# RANGE AND TARGET ACTIVITIES PROGRAM STAFF

SQ-407

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## Applies to:

Day camp

Short-term  
camp

Long-term  
camp

The **range supervisor** is the individual or individuals responsible for supervising a specific range. A range supervisor must be a current instructor in the bows, throwing implements or firearms used at the range. A range supervisor must be present at all times the range is in operation. The program supervisor may serve as a range supervisor if they are physically present on the range and have a current instructor card for the bows, throwing implements or firearms being used on the range.

“Approved standard operating procedures” are standard operating procedures developed in accordance with Standards PS-213 and PS-214 and approved pursuant to council procedures. At slingshot and throwing sports ranges, Scouting volunteers or parents may serve as additional instructors if instructed and qualified under the approved standard operating procedures.

Shooting at camp properties other than as part of a camp (camp as defined by Standard SA-001) subject to this Standard must meet the requirements of the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) and the Scouting America *National Range and Target Activities Manual*. The [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) requires different supervision outside of the supervised camp environment.

An NRA RSO or NRA coach certification is not considered an “instructor” qualifying certification because the training differs from that of an NRA instructor.

## VERIFICATION:

- Documentation of age
- Relevant NRA, US Archery, Scouting America certificates on file (may be submitted with declaration). Note that Scouting America, NRA, and US Archery certificates have different validity periods. All certifications must be checked for currency. An NCS range activities director certification requires at least one currently effective NRA instructor certification to be valid.
- Observation of program implementation

## REFERENCES:

Additional recommendations for operating the range and target activities program at a camp are found in the Scouting America *Range and Target Activities Manual* available at: [www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/](http://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/).



## NCAP National and Zone Leadership

| NCAP Position  | Name   | Email Address   |
|--|--|---|
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| <b>Assessment Chair<br/>Vice Chair<br/>Lead Zones 1-8<br/>Lead Zones 9-16<br/>Zone 1 Coordinator<br/>Zone 2 Coordinator<br/>Zone 3 Coordinator<br/>Zone 4 Coordinator<br/>Zone 5 Coordinator<br/>Zone 6 Coordinator<br/>Zone 7 Coordinator<br/>Zone 8 Coordinator<br/>Zone 9 Coordinator<br/>Zone 10 Coordinator<br/>Zone 11 Coordinator<br/>Zone 12 Coordinator<br/>Zone 13 Coordinator<br/>Zone 14 Coordinator<br/>Zone 15 Coordinator<br/>Zone 16 Coordinator</b> | Barry Simays<br>Randy DeFrank<br>Bob Miller<br>Jay Cash<br>Mary Ann & Randy Price<br>Don Paul<br>Cap Casperson<br>Chuck Gitzen<br>Brent Worley<br>Peter Erdelyi<br>Fritz Maxwell<br>Gray Strickland<br>David Ehrlich<br>George Bacalles<br>John Willemain<br>Dave Carlson<br>Jim Korcienski<br>Bobby Bloodworth<br>Jeff Irving<br>Matt Kamat | barry.simays@gmail.com<br>rrpd@twc.com<br>ramag64@aol.com<br>jayhcash@gmail.com<br>r4mprice@gmail.com<br>donpaulncap@gmail.com<br>caspercasp@gmail.com<br>cfgitzen@usfamily.net<br>brentw@wallties.com<br>perdelyi@cromedesign.com<br>fritz.maxwell@sbcglobal.net<br>gray@graystrickland.com<br>dehrlich2@gmail.com<br>gbacalles@gmail.com<br>johnwillemain@comcast.net<br>carlsonbsa@gmail.com<br>jimmyk@ptd.net<br>rbloodworth@reagan.com<br>jeffreyirving@cox.net<br>matthew.kamat@gmail.com |

## Future NCAP Developments

**October 2024. NCAP Circular No. 22** setting forth finally adopted changes to the National Camp Standards for 2025

NCAP is always open to feedback and questions. If you have questions that cannot be answered by your council NCAP chair or zone NCAP coordinator, please email **NCAP@scouting.org** or reach out to a relevant member of the NCAP national leadership team.

*Please always download and use current NCAP forms from [www.scouting.org/NCAP](http://www.scouting.org/NCAP)*