

The Boy Scouts of America has implemented strategies for a variety of activities to improve safety, improve the Scouts' experiences, and manage risk. These activities require supervision with specialized qualifications and certifications, shooting sports among them.

All BSA shooting sports activities now require very specific qualified supervision to operate every range. The numbers and types of supervision required vary according to the activity and are listed in the BSA National Shooting Sports Manual. The various positions are summarized below:

\*A certified **NRA Range Safety officer** is required to provide live firing range supervision for all shooting activities. No other certification is accepted.

\*Certified **NRA instructors** provide instruction in each discipline, both in a classroom setting and on the live fire range – including merit badge instruction (rifle, shotgun, pistol, muzzleloading rifle, muzzleloading shotgun, muzzleloading pistol). Their job is to teach basic knowledge skills and attitude to new and inexperienced shooters.

\***NRA/USA Shooting/CMP certified coaches** are also used on live fire ranges to work with shooters to improve their basic skills. They help scouts improve on skills already possessed.

\***USA Archery (NADA)/National Field Archery Association certified basic archery instructor (level 1)** serves as an archery merit badge counselor. They may serve as Archery Director or Archery Range Master.

\***USA Archery (NADA)/National Field Archery Association certified coaches** work with shooters to improve their basic skills.

\***BSA Archery Director** serves as a merit badge counselor.

\***Cub Scout BB Range Master** in charge of the firing line.

\***Cub Scout Archery Range Master** sets up and operates a safe archery range.

NOTE: Archery and BB gun shooting are restricted to day camps, Cub Scout/Webelos Scout resident camps, council-managed family camping programs, or to council activities held on or off BSA property where there are currently trained BSA shooting sports range masters and all standards for BSA shooting sports are enforced. Archery and BB gun shooting are not to be done at the pack level.

In order to assist interested volunteers in obtaining the training required to meet these requirements, (so they are available to support our council shooting sports program) the following courses are being offered to Longhouse Council Volunteers:

**NRA Range Safety Officer** – minimum 9 hour course. Minimum age 21 yrs. Scheduled March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at North Sportsman's Club, West Monroe, NY. 20 students, 2 per district plus other interested volunteers. Cost \$150.00, with discount, cost only **\$75.00** which includes all course materials and NRA certification fees. \$25.00 deposit required by February 5<sup>th</sup> will be applied to total course fee.

**NRA Rifle Instructor** – 20 hour course. Minimum age 21 yrs. Scheduled April 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>. Session Friday consists of practical skills test at a local range. Saturday and Sunday sessions will be held at Camp Woodland. 14 students, 2 per district. Cost \$325.00, with discount, cost only **\$180.00** (includes NRA Basic instructor course and all course materials) plus an additional charge of approximately **\$20.00** for NRA certification fees per student. Students are required to furnish 1 box of 100 rounds .22 LR ammunition for Friday's session, rifles will be furnished. Council will provide meals for participants on Saturday and Sunday breakfast for **\$10.00**. Housing will be available at Camp Woodland both Friday and Saturday night at no additional cost. \$50.00 deposit required by March 5<sup>th</sup> will be applied to the total fees.

**Archery Basic Instructor (level 1)** - 8 hour course. Minimum age 18 yrs. Scheduled May 12, 9:00- 5:00 at Creative Themes Camp, East Rochester. 12 students, 1-2 per district. Cost \$125.00, with discount, cost only **\$50.00** includes course materials, certification card, and lunch. If interested, camping will be available Friday night. \$25.00 deposit required by April 5<sup>th</sup>, which will be applied to total course fee.

**BSA BB Range Master and BSA Archery Range Master training** – 4 hours each. Minimum age 18. Scheduled June 9<sup>th</sup> at Camp Woodland. 16 students, 2 per district plus. NO cost for course. Bring your own bag lunch. Register by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**NRA Shotgun Instructor** – tentatively scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>. Details pending.

Since the course offerings are being sponsored by the Longhouse Shooting Sports Committee at a reduced cost, they are asking interested volunteers to make the following commitments:

- 1) Be willing to register as a merit badge counselor for your district or the council in the discipline of your new certification.
- 2) Serve as volunteer staff for at least three of the shooting sports events coordinated by the committee each year.

We are looking for volunteer representation from EVERY district in the council. Slots in each of these courses will be reserved for interested volunteers from each district to ensure that we can serve all our youth.

Please contact the Council Shooting Sports Committee by e-mail at [philetyler@verizon.net](mailto:philetyler@verizon.net) or call (315) 788-5201 to register for any of the trainings listed above so they can ensure the opportunity is extended to volunteers in each district.