

# SHOOTING SPORTS GUIDEBOOK



PAINTBALL



HUNTING



RIFLE



SHOTGUN



MUZZLE LOADER



ARCHERY



COMPETITION



BB GUN & AIR SOFT



PISTOL

## GET READY FOR ADVENTURE!

Are your Trailmen ready for shooting sports adventure? This guidebook will help the leaders in your Troop plan safe, exciting, and fun-filled shooting sports events for Trailmen of all ages.

Trail Life USA's shooting sports program is unlike any other, having been assembled by a team of volunteer shooting sports experts whose collective decades of experience have witnessed millions of rounds go down-range safely.

Troops will discover that the robust Christ-centered shooting sports program offered by Trail Life USA is flexible, designed from the ground up to maximize a boy's opportunity to be exposed to fun-filled shooting sports activities. Whether it's learning basic marksmanship, shooting in competitions, or going on his first hunt, a Trailmen will learn that his right to enjoy firearms comes from God. Understanding this concept will frame shooting sports in a distinctive manner while reinforcing their knowledge of a uniquely American pastime.

This guidebook is designed for Trail Life USA Troop leaders and parents who want to learn more about how to engage in shooting sports activities as part of their adventures. This information will assist you as you determine when shooting sports activities are possible, where to conduct them, and what sorts of supervision is required.

Walk Worthy,

**Stuart Michelson**  
Board of Directors  
Georgia

**Laura Burton**  
National Director of  
Program and Compliance  
South Carolina

**Ernie Gates**  
Point Man  
Alabama

**Dennis Conte**  
Troopmaster  
California

**James Andrews**  
Institutional Head/Charter Organization  
Representative  
Texas

**Bryce Davis**  
Troopmaster  
Oregon

**Ron Dozer**  
Point Man  
Kentucky

**Don Lauer**  
Charter Organization  
Representative  
South Carolina

**Robert Lewis**  
Troopmaster  
South Carolina

## SHOOTING SPORTS COLOR KEY

The colors below represent Trail Life USA's shooting sports. If you are looking for a particular shooting sport, look for the corresponding color & icon.

<b>PAINTBALL</b>	<b>HUNTING</b>	<b>RIFLE</b>
<b>SHOTGUN</b>	<b>MUZZLE LOADER</b>	<b>ARCHERY</b>
<b>COMPETITION</b>	<b>BB GUN &amp; AIR SOFT</b>	<b>PISTOL</b>

## MISSION

### OUR MISSION IS SIMPLE AND CLEAR:

to guide generations of courageous young men to honor God, lead with integrity, serve others, and experience outdoor adventure.



Adventure > Character > Leadership

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Program Vision . . . . .	1
The Gold-Standard in GUN SAFETY . . . . .	1
Key Vision Concepts Explained . . . . .	2
Faith and Shooting Sports . . . . .	4
Integrity, Honor, And Sportsmanship . . . . .	6
Embracing the Gold Standard in Safety . . . . .	8
Trail Life USA & Tread Lightly . . . . .	12
Building Your Troop's Range Kit . . . . .	16
Required First Aid Certification Levels . . . . .	18
How Does my Troop get Started? . . . . .	19
Is this shooting sports activity legal/lawful in my area? . . . . .	20
Does my charter organization approve of this shooting sports activity? . . . . .	21
Is there qualified supervision for this shooting sports activity? . . . . .	21

## SHOOTING SPORTS

Rifle . . . . .	22	Paintball . . . . .	24
Shotgun . . . . .	22	Airsoft . . . . .	25
Pistol . . . . .	23	BB / Pellet / Air . . . . .	25
Muzzle Loaders . . . . .	23	Competitions . . . . .	26
Archery . . . . .	24	Hunting . . . . .	27

## TRAINING & LEADERSHIP

Advanced Training & Leadership Opportunities: Firearms . . . . .	28
Advanced Training & Leadership Opportunities: Archery . . . . .	30



## PROGRAM VISION

The vision for Shooting Sports in Trail Life USA is to embody the concepts of *American Heritage*, *Individual Responsibility*, and *Adventure* for members of Trail Life USA through a safe yet diverse shooting sports program that is tailored to embrace regional differences.

## THE GOLD-STANDARD IN GUN SAFETY

### 1 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.

### 2 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.

### 3 ALWAYS KEEP THE GUN UNLOADED UNTIL READY TO USE.

Whenever you pick up a gun, immediately engage the safety device if possible, and, 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.

\*Archery, Airsoft, and Paintball include additional special considerations





## KEY VISION CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

### /// CHRIST-CENTERED

While the words “Christ-centered” do not appear in the vision statement, the core value is implicit in stating that this is a Trail Life USA shooting sports program. The question is not whether or not boys will learn about firearms. We should acknowledge that boys will learn about firearms no matter what and that *the real question is* whether it is better to have them learning about them in Trail Life USA’s safe Christ-centered environment or from unrealistic video games and movies.

### /// AMERICAN HERITAGE

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution is rightfully celebrated by American gun enthusiasts as the guarantor of their rights to own firearms for defense, hunting, and recreation. Firearm ownership grants the most common of men the most uncommon of freedoms. A Trailman knows that his right to enjoy firearms comes from God, and the Second Amendment is merely an affirmation of this truth on paper. Understanding this concept will frame shooting sports in a distinctive manner when compared to other youth shooting sports programs, while reinforcing a Trailman’s knowledge of a uniquely patriotic American pastime.

### /// INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

The awesome responsibility of using a firearm safely can be thought to be representative of a boy’s journey into manhood. The Biblical concepts of responsibility and maturity have been incorporated into the shooting sports program in an age-appropriate manner. A Trailman knows that it is important to be faithful in the little things, and that doing so promotes firearm safety. This program area fosters ways to instill a sense of Christian duty in Trailmen. A Biblical man has the duty to protect his family, provide for his family, and enjoy his Christian liberty. Christian men use firearms responsibly.

### /// ADVENTURE

The promise of adventure is a primary reason that Trailmen are drawn to and choose to stay in the Trail Life USA program. Providing program opportunities that are unique to Trail Life USA is one important way that the organization sets itself apart and raises the standard. Trail Life USA has the most diverse youth shooting sports program in the world. It brings together all sorts of activities from across the spectrum of opportunities for adventure within the shooting sports genre. While other individual organizations and shooting sports programs may have strong focuses on one specific program area (such as competitions or hunting), Trail Life USA offers its members the chance to partake in all of those activities in the unique Christ-centered atmosphere that only it can provide.

### /// REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

Some youth shooting sports programs tailor their activities to the most restrictive regions of the United States while this program has embraced a model that embodies the Trail Life USA core values of decentralized decision-making, church-owned and operated, safety, and program flexibility. This program includes a 3-step framework for Troops considering shooting sports activities that answers the questions “Is this activity legal/lawful in my area?”, “Does my charter organization approve of this activity?”, and “Is there qualified supervision overseeing this activity?” This guidebook will help Troops be able to answer “yes” or “no” to each of these questions and thereby easily help them determine if an activity is off-limits. Doing so enables Troops to participate in activities that they would normally be able to engage in safely and lawfully outside of the Trail Life USA program. By bringing these activities into Trail Life USA where it is legal to do so, the program enables as many Trailmen as possible to experience shooting sports adventure and limit the number who may face restrictions of one type or another.



## FAITH AND SHOOTING SPORTS

### /// CHARACTER

Character is defined as strength of moral fiber. A.W. Tozer described character as “the excellence of moral beings.” As the excellence of gold is its purity and the excellence of art is its beauty, so the excellence of man is his character. Persons of character are noted for their honesty, ethics, and charity. Descriptions such as “man of principle” and “woman of integrity” are assertions of character. A lack of character is moral deficiency, and persons lacking character tend to behave dishonestly, unethically, and uncharitably.

Character is influenced and developed by our choices. Daniel “resolved not to defile himself” in Babylon (Daniel 1:8), and that Godly choice was an important step in formulating an unassailable integrity in the young man’s life. Character, in turn, influences our choices. “The integrity of the upright guides them” (Proverbs 11:3a). Character will help us weather the storms of life and keep us from sin (Proverbs 10:9a).

It is the Lord’s purpose to develop character within us. “The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart” (Proverbs 17:3). Godly character is the result of the Holy Spirit’s work of sanctification. Character in the believer is a consistent manifestation of Jesus in his life. It is the purity of heart that God gives becoming purity in action. God sometimes uses trials to strengthen character: “we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope” (Romans 5:3-4). The Lord is pleased when His children grow in character. “You test the heart and are pleased with integrity” (1 Chronicles 29:17; see also Psalm 15:1-2).

We can develop character by controlling our thoughts (Philippians 4:8), practicing Christian virtues (2 Peter 1:5-6), guarding our hearts (Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 15:18-20), and keeping good company

(1 Corinthians 15:33). Men of character will set a good example for others to follow, and their godly reputation will be evident to all (Titus 2:7-8).

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

2 Peter 1: 5 - 7

*“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.”*

Galatians 5: 22 - 23

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”*

Philippians 4: 8

*“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”*

1 Timothy 4: 12

*“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”*

James 1: 19

*“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;”*





There are many shooting sports competitions available to Trailmen. Some are solo activities (such as a marksmanship competition), while others involve working as a team (such as a Paintball competition). No matter the type of sport, a Trailman knows that sportsmanship is the ability to win without bragging, lose without complaining, and play while respecting others. Learn as much as you can about your sport, play by the rules and don't cheat. A victory gained as a result of cheating is hollow. According to Colossians 3:23-24, *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward."* It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

## INTEGRITY, HONOR, AND SPORTSMANSHIP

Integrity means following your moral or ethical convictions and doing the right thing in all circumstances, even when nobody is watching you.

Colossians 3: 8

*"But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth."*

James 2:13

*"So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment."*

James 4:1 - Pride Promotes Strife

*"Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?"*

James 4: 11 - 12 - Do Not Judge a Brother

*"Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?"*

Titus 2: 7 - 8

*"In all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you."*

Leviticus 19: 18

*"You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."*

Romans 12: 9 - 13

*"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality."*

Hebrews 13: 18

*"Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably."*

Act courteously and treat others kindly. This includes the officials, spectators, and teammates before, during, and after games or events. Even the opposing team, their coaches, and fans deserves your respect. In Philippians 2:3 it says, *"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves."*

**DON'T LOSE YOUR COOL.** Even if other players and teammates lose their tempers, it doesn't mean you have to. It's tough when the ref calls a play that is wrong or you lose the game. Remind yourself that the Bible says in 2 Timothy 1:7, *"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."*

**BE A TEAM PLAYER.** Just like in the body of Christ, we each have different talents and strengths, that when used together, can accomplish great things. (1 Corinthians 12:27) No one person can win without the help and support of others. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 says, *"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!"*

**ENCOURAGE YOUR TEAMMATES.** Criticizing teammates for a strikeout or a missed catch distracts from the focus of working together and gives your opponent an advantage. Also, avoid trash-talking the other team. Words are powerful and you don't want to use them to harm others. Ephesians 4:29 says, *"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."*

**ACKNOWLEDGE AND APPLAUD GOOD PLAYS, EVEN WHEN IT'S YOUR OPPONENT THAT MAKES THEM.** Whether you win or lose, congratulate the other team on a game well played.

*Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. – (1 Thessalonians 5:11).*





## EMBRACING THE GOLD STANDARD IN SAFETY

### 1 ALWAYS KEEP THE GUN POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION.

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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.

### 3 ALWAYS KEEP THE GUN UNLOADED UNTIL READY TO USE.

Whenever you pick up a gun, immediately engage the safety device if possible and, 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 FROM THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION (NRA):

- **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 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.



- **Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.** Many factors must be considered when deciding where and how to store guns. A person's particular situation will be a major part of the consideration. 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.** Most firearms and air gun projectiles (pellets, cartridges, and bullets, etc.) are lead-based or contain lead-based components. After participating in shooting sports activities you should assume you have touched lead-based projectiles and all adults and youth should wash their hands with soap and water.



### /// CLEANING

A Trailman knows that the tools he has access to are a gift from God, and that part of being a responsible person is caring for those gifts. Regular cleaning is important in order for your gun to operate correctly and safely. Taking proper care of it will also maintain its value and extend its life. Your gun should be cleaned every time that it is used. A gun brought out of prolonged storage should also be cleaned before shooting. Accumulated moisture and dirt, or solidified grease and oil, can prevent the gun from operating properly. Before cleaning your gun, make absolutely sure that it is unloaded. The gun's action should be open during the cleaning process.

Be sure there is no ammunition in the area when cleaning a gun. Be sure you are not in an area where you are likely to be disturbed during gun cleaning. If you are interrupted for any reason, start over the process, ensuring that the gun is empty and that there is no ammunition in the area.

### /// TRANSPORTATION OF FIREARMS TO TRAIL LIFE USA EVENTS

These requirements apply at all times and to all persons or groups who transport personal firearms to TLUSA shooting sports events. Your state or locality may have additional requirements for transportation of firearms so always responsibly check for additional requirements.

### GUNS AND AMMUNITION MUST TRAVEL SEPARATELY:

- Guns and ammunition are ALWAYS stored separately during travel to/from a TLUSA event.
- Ammunition and guns may ONLY be together when on a range and ONLY when instructed by qualified supervision/range safety officer.
- After a participant finishes a course of fire, firearms must again be cased separate from ammunition before leaving the firing line.

### OPEN BOLT INDICATORS REQUIRED:

- An open bolt indicator must ALWAYS be inserted into the action of all guns to demonstrate the gun is unloaded.
- A piece of brightly colored weed trimmer cord long enough to extend several inches beyond the action at one end and also out of the muzzle end of the barrel is an inexpensive open bolt indicator that meets this requirement and demonstrates at a glance that the gun chamber is empty

### MUZZLE DIRECTION INDICATOR REQUIRED ON GUN CASES:

- Guns must travel to/from TLUSA events in cases.
- Direction of the muzzle must be clearly indicated on the gun case if muzzle direction is not obvious by the case design.
- A piece of tape with an arrow pointing in the same direction as the muzzle and the word "muzzle" meets this requirement.
- Cases must be opened with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction (i.e. downrange).

### /// SAFE TRIGGER REQUIRED (CHECK YOUR LOCAL LAWS):

- A safe trigger is one that when inspected does not allow the gun to fire accidentally with normal handling.
- Safe trigger can be confirmed by cycling the action, and tapping the action and/or rifle butt with a hand or synthetic mallet without the trigger engaging. Inspectors should NOT drop someone else's gun from ANY distance when "bump testing" to confirm a safe trigger.
- Event hosts may require a specific weight safe trigger pull as an event requirement.

It is your responsibility to check your local laws and make sure that your plan to transport firearms and ammunition complies with the local laws in your area and the area in which your event is taking place.







## TRAIL LIFE USA & TREAD LIGHTLY

Together as partners, Tread Lightly! and TLUSA will promote outdoor education, awareness, and habitat restoration projects that will preserve wilderness lands and teach environmentally friendly practices for all outdoor activities. Tread Lightly! is a vocal advocate for the best practices in outdoor use and is a leader in conservation and sustainable outdoor recreation. Their federal partners include the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service and Army Corps of Engineers.

The following Tread Lightly! principles should always be adhered to during Trail Life USA shooting sports activities:

### /// TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY ON DESIGNATED ROADS, TRAILS AND AREAS

- Practice target shooting and other shooting sports only on lands opened to shooting.
- Always practice minimum impact travel techniques for your mode of transportation.
- Stay on the trail.
- Comply with all signs and respect barriers. Buddy up with two or three shooters, reducing vulnerability if you have an accident.
- Don't mix shooting with alcohol or drugs.

### /// RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

- Respect the rights of others, including private property owners, all recreational trail users, campers, and others so they can enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.
- Be considerate of others on the road, trail, or within the shooting area.

- Never take a shot unless you see the target clearly and you know what lies between you, the target, and beyond.
- Property such as signs, kiosks, and buildings are not targets.
- Don't shoot across roads, trails, waterways, or into caves.
- Do not shoot in developed recreation sites such as campgrounds, trailheads, parking areas, or boat launches.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- If crossing private property, be sure to ask permission from the landowner(s).

### /// EDUCATE YOURSELF

- Educate yourself prior to your trip by obtaining travel maps and regulations from public agencies, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes and knowing how to operate your equipment safely.
- It is your responsibility to contact the land manager to learn of any permit requirements, closures, or restrictions related to shooting sports.
- Obtain a map of your destination and determine which areas are open to your type of travel.
- Make a realistic plan and stick to it.
- Always tell someone of your travel plans.
- Check the weather forecast before you go.
- Prepare for the unexpected by packing a small backpack full of emergency items.

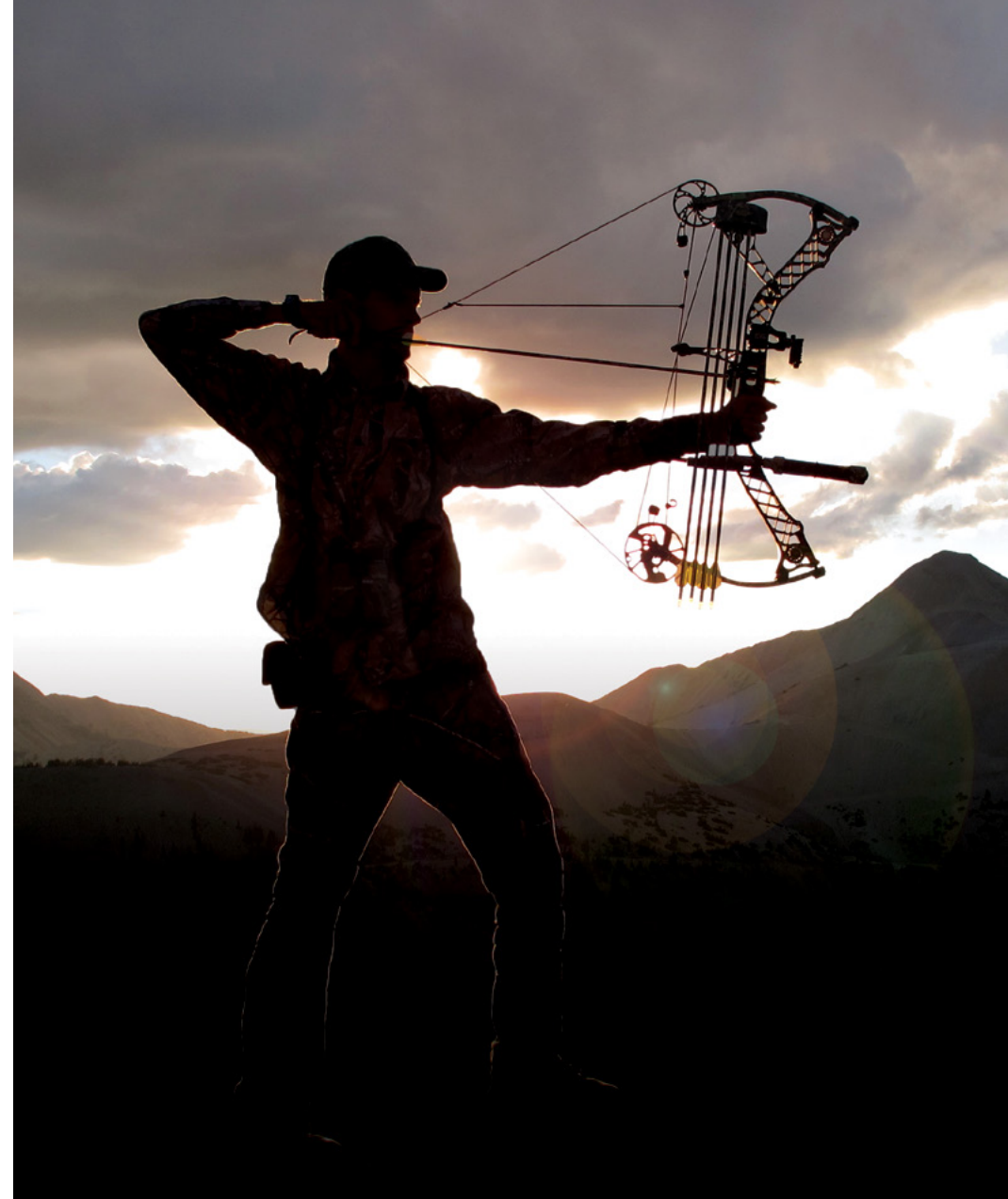


### /// AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS

- Avoid sensitive areas such as meadows, lakeshores, wetlands, and streams. Stay on designated routes.
- Other sensitive habitats to avoid include living desert soils, tundra, and seasonal nesting or breeding areas.
- Don't use trees or other natural objects as targets. These impacts leave a permanent negative image about shooters' relationship with nature.
- Do not disturb or shoot historical, archaeological, or paleontological sites. They cannot be replaced.
- Motorized and mechanized vehicles are not allowed in designated Wilderness Areas.

### /// DO YOUR PART

- Do your part by modeling appropriate behavior, leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire, avoiding the spread of invasive species, and restoring degraded areas.
- Respect the shooting community by only shooting legitimate targets.
- Pack out all target trash including shotgun shells, fragmented clay pigeons, or any targets. These leave a negative image about shooters.
- Carry a trash bag on your vehicle and pick up litter and target trash left by others.
- Do not shoot household appliances and other objects dumped in shooting areas. It is misconstrued that shooters are the dumpers.
- Practice minimum impact camping by using established sites or durable surfaces and camping 200 feet from water resources and trails.
- Observe proper sanitary waste disposal or pack your waste out.
- Before and after your trip, wash your gear and support vehicle to reduce the spread of invasive species.





## BUILDING YOUR TROOP'S RANGE KIT

A Trailman should be ready for anything. In addition to the the skills needed in an emergency, he must also have the necessary tools nearby. The first aid kit a Troop brings on their backpacking trips is not sufficient for the range. Troops participating in Shooting Sports activities in Trail Life USA must have a dedicated Range Kit, which is a first aid kit with specific tools needed in the event of an emergency on the range. The following list is a recommendation of what belongs in your Troop's Range Kit. This list is in full compliance with the guidelines as set forth and endorsed by the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care (CoTCCC) and the National Association of Emergency Medical Technician's (NAEMT) Prehospital Trauma Life Support/Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC).

In addition to your Troop's Range Kit, always check upon arrival to a shooting range for the Emergency Medical Action Plan (EMAP). It should be clearly posted. You should go to a different range if there is no plan or dedicated medical trauma kit at your local range.

### /// YOUR TROOP'S RANGE KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Mediwash Eye Wash/Irrigation Solution 4oz
- Disposable Emergency Blanket
- SAM Flexible Splint, 36 Rolled
- CPR Pocket Mask
- Cold Packs (Qty: 4)
- Celox Gauze 5 yds.
- Celox Gauze 10 yds.
- Elastic Wrap (2 inch)
- Teflon Trauma Dressing (10 x 30)
- Teflon Coated Elastic Gauze Bandage, 4
- Alcohol Prep Pads (Qty: 20)
- Decompression Needles (Qty: 8)
- Nasopharyngeal 28 Fr airway w/ lubricant
- HALO Chest Seal Standard (Qty: 2)
- HALO Chest Seal XL (Qty: 1)
- Bio-Hand Cleaner (Purell alcohol gel, 4oz.)
- Hot Compress (Instant Hot Pack)
- Wound Coagulation Chemical (Quikclot Gauze LE)
- Wound Coagulation Chemical (Quikclot Powder)

### /// BURN KIT:

- Water Jel® Face Mask
- 3 Water Jel® 2x6 Dressing
- 3 Water Jel® 4x4 Dressing
- 20 Water Jel® Burn Gel Packets
- Adhesive Bandages, waterproof, (Qty: 30, Various sizes)
- Antiseptic Sting Swabs (Qty: 10)
- CAT TOURNIQUET (GEN 7)
- Biohazard Trash Bag
- Trauma Shears, 7.5 inch
- Non Latex Exam Gloves, 5pr.
- Ink Pen – Notebook





## REQUIRED FIRST AID CERTIFICATION LEVELS

The table below outlines the required first aid certifications for various kinds of shooting sports activities available to Troops in Trail Life USA. At least one adult leader, and preferably as many youth as possible must hold a valid certification at the specified level before engaging in a Troop shooting sports adventure. This table was designed to scale the certifications required with the risk associated with each activity. For instance, in certain competitions or hunting, Trailmen will be moving with loaded firearms.

Shooting Sport	Location Type	SOP*	Basic First Aid CPR AED Certification	Wilderness Advanced First Aid
Airsoft	Private Land Owners	+	+	
Paintball	Private Land Owners	+	+	
BB Guns	Private Land Owners	+	+	
Archery	Public, Private, Field	+	+	
Pistol	Public, Private, Field	+	+	
Rifle	Public, Private, Field	+	+	
Shotgun	Public, Private	+	+	
Muzzle Loader	Public, Private, Field	+	+	
Competitions	Organized Body	+	+	
Hunting (All Types)	Field			+

\* Location Type Standard Operating Procedure

NOTE: These requirements are in addition to having a Troop Range Kit on site. Having individuals on site with these certifications is never considered to replace the requirement for having a Range Kit at your activity. All Shooting Sports requirements are in addition to current Health and Safety Guide requirements for supervision and safety for all events and activities in general.

## HOW DOES MY TROOP GET STARTED?

This section is designed for Troop leaders and parents who want to learn more about how to engage in shooting sports activities as part of their adventures. This information will assist you as you determine when shooting sports activities are possible, where to conduct them, and what sorts of supervision is required.

As a Troop leader considering a shooting sports activity, you should be able to answer "Yes" to each of the following questions below:

- 1 IS THIS SHOOTING SPORTS ACTIVITY LEGAL/LAWFUL IN MY AREA?
- 2 DOES MY CHARTER ORGANIZATION APPROVE OF THIS SHOOTING SPORTS ACTIVITY?
- 3 IS THERE QUALIFIED SUPERVISION FOR THIS SHOOTING SPORTS ACTIVITY?

If you don't know the answer to one or all of these questions, don't worry. The remainder of this guidebook is designed to connect you to the resources necessary to answer to these questions for your Troop.

Some activities that are legal in some areas of the country may not be in be in others. Trail Life USA's Shooting Sports Program enables as many Trailmen as possible to experience shooting sports adventure and limit the number who may face restrictions.

Securing your charter organization's approval and connecting your Troop to the appropriate and qualified supervision for your shooting sports adventure is key to providing a safe and fun-filled atmosphere.



## 1 IS THIS SHOOTING SPORTS ACTIVITY LEGAL/LAWFUL IN MY AREA?

The Trail Life USA shooting sports program aims to allow Troops to participate in activities that they would normally be able to engage in safely and lawfully outside of the Trail Life USA program. By bringing these activities into Trail Life USA where it is legal to do so, the program enables as many Trailmen as possible to experience shooting sports adventure and limit the number who may face restrictions of one type or another.

Rules and restrictions that Troop leaders must consider include Federal/State laws, restrictions set forth by local municipalities, and other applicable laws governing magazine capacity, age-appropriateness, types of ammunition, and noise ordinances. Identifying an individual that meets the Trail Life USA definition of qualified supervision for your proposed activity is a great way to also determine if there are restrictions you must adhere to.

In addition to consulting your state's specific laws, the following resources are useful for familiarizing yourself to the laws regarding firearms in your local area. You may also find it useful to call or write to local law enforcement agencies to determine the legality of shooting sports activities.



### /// NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION: INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

[www.nraila.org/gun-laws/](http://www.nraila.org/gun-laws/)

This page is a collection of the gun laws across all 50 states in the United States and highlights where it is permissible to travel with firearms. This may be useful if your Troop is planning a shooting sports adventure across state lines.



### /// U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

[www.fws.gov/offices/statelinks.html](http://www.fws.gov/offices/statelinks.html)

This resource can connect you to your local agency that manages wildlife areas. This resource will be particularly helpful if your Troop is considering a hunting adventure. Even with a "non-hunting" gun question, your local game warden is an excellent resource about what you and your youth can/cannot do regarding use and transport of firearms in your local area and is often your most knowledgeable resource.

### /// GUN LAWS BY STATE ON WIKIPEDIA

[wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun\\_laws\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States\\_by\\_state](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun_laws_in_the_United_States_by_state)

Bear in mind that Wikipedia is dependent on user-submitted content, and may not reflect up-to-date and accurate information about laws in your area. Reading here may help you figure out which questions to need to ask elsewhere. Always cross check the information found here with a second source.

## 2 DOES MY CHARTER ORGANIZATION APPROVE OF THIS SHOOTING SPORTS ACTIVITY?

Central to Trail Life USA is the Church-Owned and Operated model. As charter owners, these institutions must determine that they approve of the shooting sports activity your Troop is proposing. After a Troop leader has answered "Yes" to the question, "Is this shooting sports activity legal/lawful in my area?", it is time to secure permission from your chartering institution. Some charter partners may determine that all shooting sports activities are permissible, while others may determine that some or none are permissible.

If charter organization representatives have questions about a certain shooting sports activity, they are encouraged to review the information Troop leaders compiled when determining the legality of the activity. Even if the activity is legal in your Troop's area, the chartering institution may determine that they are not comfortable with the activity, in which case the activity is to be considered off-limits for your Troop. In certain circumstances, the chartering institution may determine that an activity is permissible, but not on their property (examples include games like Archery Tag or Airsoft).

## 2 IS THERE QUALIFIED SUPERVISION FOR THIS SHOOTING SPORTS ACTIVITY?

After a Troop leader has answered "Yes" to the questions, "Is this shooting sports activity legal/lawful in my area?" and "Does my charter organization approve of this shooting sports activity?" it is time to find qualified supervision for your activity. Securing appropriate and currently certified qualified supervision is essential to having a safe Troop activity at the range. The sections that follow define the necessary standards for qualified supervision for Trail Life USA shooting sports activities. There are no exceptions to be made for expired credentials. These individuals must be 21 years or older. As a Troop leader, you must secure a copy of the individual's credentials and experience record. Keep copies of these credentials with your Troop Trip/Activity Form.

All credentials must be current for an individual to be considered appropriate qualified supervision for a shooting sports activity. Individuals that meet the defined standards below are to be considered qualified supervision for Trail Life USA shooting sports activities and Trail Badge oversight. The age-appropriateness for shooting sports activities is up to the discretion of these qualified individuals, who may take into account other factors apart from age (such as maturity and size) when deciding how to maintain a safe range.





## RIFLE

### CERTIFYING ENTITIES:

National Rifle Association (NRA), 4H, Project Appleseed (RWVA), Civilian Marksmanship Program, or another civilian, national, regional or state credentialing organization in existence for greater than 10 years with a full or partial youth instruction emphasis and rifle specific instruction.

### REQUIRED CLASSROOM SUPERVISION:

Any and all forms of classroom instruction involving the use of a rifle shall be supervised by at least one current and active Certified Rifle Instructor or Certified Rifle Coach.

### REQUIRED RANGE SUPERVISION:

Any and all supervision or instruction on the range including but not limited to instruction or practice with a rifle including live courses of fire shall be supervised by at least one current and active Certified Rifle Instructor or Certified Rifle Coach. In addition to the Certified Rifle Instructor or Certified Rifle Coach, a current certified NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO) must oversee the course of fire.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS/NOTES:

The supervisor must agree to conduct themselves in a manner that supports Trail Life USA policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life USA activities.



## SHOTGUN

### CERTIFYING ENTITIES:

National Rifle Association (NRA), Amateur Trap Association (ATA), National Skeet Shooting Association (NSSA), National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA), USA Shooting Sports (USAS).

### REQUIRED CLASSROOM SUPERVISION:

Any and all forms of classroom instruction involving the use of a shotgun shall be supervised by at least one current and active Certified Shotgun Instructor or Certified Shotgun Coach from the list of certifying entities.

### REQUIRED RANGE SUPERVISION:

Any and all supervision or instruction on the range including but not limited to instruction or practice with a shotgun including live courses of fire shall be supervised by at least one current and active Certified Shotgun Instructor or Certified Shotgun Coach from the list of certifying entities. In addition to the Certified Rifle Instructor or Certified Rifle Coach, a current certified NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO) must oversee the course of fire.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS/NOTES:

The supervisor must agree to conduct themselves in a manner that supports Trail Life USA policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life USA activities.



## PISTOL

### CERTIFYING ENTITY:

National Rifle Association (NRA)

### REQUIRED CLASSROOM SUPERVISION:

Any and all forms of classroom instruction involving the use of a Pistol shall be supervised by at least one current and active Certified Pistol Instructor or Certified Pistol Coach.

### REQUIRED RANGE SUPERVISION:

Any and all supervision or instruction on the range including but not limited to instruction or practice with a pistol including live courses of fire shall be supervised by at least one current and active Certified Pistol Instructor or Certified pistol Coach. In addition to the Certified Pistol Instructor or Certified Pistol Coach, a current certified NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO) must oversee the course of fire.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS/NOTES:

The supervisor must agree to conduct themselves in a manner that supports Trail Life USA policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life USA activities.



## MUZZLE LOADERS

### CERTIFYING ENTITIES:

National Rifle Association (NRA), National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA)

### REQUIRED CLASSROOM SUPERVISION:

Any and all forms of classroom instruction involving the use of a Muzzleloading Rifle, Pistol, or Shotgun shall be taught by at least one current and active Certified NRA or NMLRA Muzzleloading Instructor.

### REQUIRED RANGE SUPERVISION:

All Range Activity involving a Muzzleloading Rifle, Pistol, or Shotgun will be supervised by at least one current certified NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO), NRA Chief Range Safety Officer (CRSO), or NMLRA Range Officer. Additionally, during any periods of instruction, at least one current and active Certified NRA Muzzleloading Instructor or NMLRA Instructor must conduct the training.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS/NOTES:

The supervisor must agree to conduct themselves in a manner that supports Trail Life USA policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life USA activities. Any Range Safety Officer must be intimately familiar with Muzzleloaders present on the Range or must find additional expertise to support.





## AIRSOFT

### CERTIFYING ENTITY:

ASTM International (activity must comply with all relevant standards)

### REQUIRED CLASSROOM SUPERVISION:

Any and all forms of classroom instruction involving the use of a Airsoft Firearms and associated accessories shall be supervised by at least one active Safety Instructor or Coach.

### REQUIRED RANGE SUPERVISION:

Designated Safety Officer who has read and understands the ASTM Standards for Safe Field Operation.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS/NOTES:

The supervisor must agree to conduct themselves in a manner that supports Trail Life USA policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life USA activities.

\*Consult TLUSA addendum documents online.



## BB / PELLET / AIR

### CERTIFYING ENTITY:

National Rifle Association (NRA) — activity must comply with all relevant NRA standards as defined in the NRA Basic Instructional Book/Video and Rulebook that most closely approximates the activity (i.e. pellet pistol is governed by the relevant NRA basic pistol book/video in general, and with the most applicable rulebooks and particularly by those sections of various rulebooks directly discussing pellet pistols).

### REQUIRED CLASSROOM SUPERVISION:

Any and all forms of classroom instruction involving the use of BB & Pellet guns and associated accessories shall be supervised by at least one designated Safety Instructor or Coach who is well versed in following/teaching the NRA gold standard gun safety rules, as well as NRA basic gun safety and the applicable basic firearm instructional book/video & those rulebooks most directly applicable to the activity being performed (the BB Rifle Rulebook or the Sporter Air Rifle Rule book would be paired with the NRA basic rifle safety book/video).

### REQUIRED RANGE SUPERVISION:

Designated Safety Officer who possesses an in-depth understanding of the NRA basic gun safety rules, the basic rifle or pistol book/video most applicable to the activity being performed and the NRA Rulebook(s) most directly applicable to the activity being performed.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS/NOTES:

The supervisor must agree to conduct themselves in a manner that supports Trail Life USA policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life USA activities.

**Rulebooks:** [rulebooks.nra.org/](http://rulebooks.nra.org/)

**Safety Rules:** [training.nra.org/nra-gun-safety-rules.aspx](http://training.nra.org/nra-gun-safety-rules.aspx)

**NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting** SKU:NR40830EFI3I82

**NRA Basic of Pistol Shooting** SKU:NR40830ES30640



## ARCHERY

### CERTIFYING ENTITIES:

USA Archery, National Field Archery Association (NFAA), Archery Shooter's Association (ASA), Archer in School Programs

### REQUIRED CLASSROOM SUPERVISION:

USA Archery Instructor or Coach, National Field Archery Instructor, Archery in School Instructor

### REQUIRED RANGE SUPERVISION:

USA Archery Instructor or Coach, National Field Archery Instructor, Archery in School Instructor

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS/NOTES:

The supervisor must agree to conduct themselves in a manner that supports Trail Life USA policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life USA activities.



## PAINTBALL

### CERTIFYING ENTITY:

ASTM International (activity must comply with all relevant standards)

### REQUIRED CLASSROOM SUPERVISION:

Any and all forms of classroom instruction involving the use of a Airsoft Firearms and associated accessories shall be supervised by at least one active Safety Instructor or Coach.

### REQUIRED RANGE SUPERVISION:

Designated Safety Officer who has read and understands the ASTM Standards for Safe Field Operation.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS/NOTES:

The supervisor must agree to conduct themselves in a manner that supports Trail Life USA policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life USA activities.

\*Consult TLUSA addendum documents online.





## COMPETITIONS

### CERTIFYING ENTITY:

Unless an event is operated under the procedures of another organization involved in the activity (other than Trail Life USA), the leader must hold a current coach and/or instructor credential with a national, regional or state certifying organization in existence and issuing credentials for greater than 10 years in the discipline the organization is certifying.

### REQUIRED CLASSROOM SUPERVISION:

Unless an event is operated under the procedures of another organization involved in the activity (other than Trail Life USA), any and all forms of classroom instruction shall be supervised by 2 qualified adults who are either a current Certified Instructor, a Certified Coach or a certified range safety officer.

### REQUIRED RANGE SUPERVISION:

In addition to following the event rules and policies governing a shooting sports activity (such as a Project Appleseed event or a NRA sanctioned competition), the Trail Life USA leader(s) responsible for supervising youth at a competition must also ensure that youth traveling with handguns carry required forms as legally applicable, which might include a pistol possession form, and competition proficiency form.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS/NOTES:

The supervisor must agree to conduct themselves in a manner that supports Trail Life USA policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life USA activities.



## HUNTING

### CERTIFYING ENTITIES:

National Rifle Association (NRA), National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA), USA Archery, National Field Archery Association (NFAA), Archery Shooter's Association (ASA)

### REQUIRED CLASSROOM SUPERVISION:

Individual must hold current instructor credentials for the discipline to hunt (i.e., rifle), must hold a valid hunting license in their state of residence, and a valid hunter education certification.

### REQUIRED RANGE SUPERVISION:

Individual must hold current instructor credentials for the discipline to hunt (i.e., rifle), must hold a valid hunting license in their state of residence, and a valid hunter education certification.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS/NOTES:

The supervisor must agree to conduct themselves in a manner that supports Trail Life USA policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life USA activities.







## ADVANCED TRAINING & LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: FIREARMS YOUTH LEARNING BY TEACHING OTHERS

Trail Life USA recognizes the benefits of increased safety through education in shooting sports beyond a Trail Badge or shooting sports experience. Adventurers and Guidon age Trailmen have an opportunity to participate in instructor rating certification programs offered through national shooting sports training organizations that are the industry standard in shooting sports education and safety. Through these instructor programs Trailmen will increase their knowledge, skills, and attitude while developing into shooting sports leadership roles. Adventurers and Guidons will also obtain real-world certifications which can help further their opportunities in and outside Trail Life USA as they go from Adventurer to Guidon, Guidon to future Trail Leader, and beyond.

### /// INSTRUCTOR OPPORTUNITIES

The National Rifle Association (NRA), National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA), and 4H have opportunities for Trailmen who want to continue their firearms education and take on a leadership role such as Apprentice Instructor, Assistant Instructor, or Certified Instructor in one or more Areas of Specialization (AoS) listed below. This education and leadership opportunity requires a significant commitment of time and resources and is only recommended for Trailmen with emotional maturity necessary to handle such a position of responsibility.

### /// AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION (AOS):

- NRA or 4H Rifle
- NRA or 4H Pistol
- NRA or 4H Shotgun
- NRA or 4H or NMLRA Muzzle Loading Instructor\*

\* Only the NMLRA offers a Muzzle Loading Apprentice Instructor rating.

† Please contact your state or county 4H shooting sports representative for program/course details in your area as offerings may differ by location.

### /// APPRENTICE INSTRUCTOR RATINGS (ADVENTURERS ONLY)

Adventurers who want to earn an Apprentice Instructor rating must:

- Be between the ages of 13 and 17 years of age;
- Have demonstrated significant shooting skills acquired by completing the Basic Firearm training course in their chosen AoS;
- Have an intimate familiarity with each firearm and action type in the discipline in which they wish to be certified;
- Successfully completed a pre-course evaluation, pass a pre-course examination, and pass a shooting and safety qualification exercise administered by an NRA Training Counselor (TC) or NMLRA Trainer;
- Complete the Basic Instructor's Training (BIT) program and pass the Trainer's Examination; Participate and pass all phases of Apprentice Instructor training in the AoS including a final written exam;
- Interview with and have the endorsement of the NRA Training Counselor in charge or NMLRA Trainer in charge.

### /// ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR RATINGS (GUIDONS ONLY)

Guidons who want to earn an Assistant Instructor in an AoS have two methods:

- Assistant Instructor Rating Method #1: Previous certification as an Apprentice Instructor

If as an Adventurer the Guidon has completed an Apprentice Instructor rating in an AoS they may apply for an Assistant Instructor rating in the same AoS. To do this they must contact the certification organization and follow their current policies and procedures for requesting the Assistant Instructor rating.

- Assistant Instructor Rating Method #2: No previous certification as an Apprentice Instructor

A Guidon between the ages of 18 and 21 may enroll in an Assistant Instructor Course after meeting the prerequisites required to enroll for the certifying agency. Upon successful completion of certification, they will register with the certifying agency and pay the appropriate fees.





## ADVANCED TRAINING & LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: ARCHERY YOUTH LEARNING BY TEACHING OTHERS

### /// ARCHERY INSTRUCTOR OPPORTUNITIES

USA Archery (USAA), National Field Archery Association (NFAA) and the Archery Shooters Association (ASA) have opportunities for Trailmen who want to continue their archery education and take on a leadership role such as Archery Instructors and Coaches. Both NFAA and ASA offer combined Archery Instructors certification with USA Archery who administers the training program and all associations jointly recognize all certification levels.

Archery Instructors and Coaches are the foundation of USA Archery's programs, camps, and the athlete development pipeline. Trailmen who obtain certification is not only provided with valuable knowledge hands-on skills, and leadership opportunities to help instruct and develop archers. There are currently five (5) levels of certification available beginning with Level I Archery Instructor and ending with Level 5 NTS Coach.

### /// LEVEL I INSTRUCTOR

**ADVENTURERS:** 15 YEARS OLD OR OLDER

The Level I Archery Instructor Certification Course provides graduates the necessary tools to maintain a high level of safety both on and off the archery range. It also ensures that minimum standards for archery instruction are consistently taught to provide for the safety and enjoyment of the participants, instructors and spectators. Level I Instructors are well prepared to teach beginner archery programs to people of all ages and abilities in a variety of both indoor and outdoor settings in the disciplines of target, field or 3-D archery. The Level I Instructor will learn about range safety, range setup, the steps of shooting, equipment and repair, programs and lesson plans.

**Certification Requirements:** *Successful course completion.*

### /// LEVEL 2 INSTRUCTOR

**GUIDONS:** 18 YEARS OLD OR OLDER

The Level 2 Archery Instructor Certification Course includes the Level I Archery Instructor Certification Course and provides students with an introduction to the National Training System (NTS) Steps of Shooting for recurve and compound, equipment and accessory setup, athlete development and events. It also qualifies students to teach the Level I Archery Instructor Certification Course. Graduates of the Level 2 Archery Instructor Certification Course are well prepared to serve as the lead instructor for long-term archery programs such as Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD), Adult Archery Program and Collegiate Archery Program clubs, as well as the Explore Archery program.

#### **Certification Requirements:**

- Membership to USAA, NFAA, or ASA
- USAA Background Screening
- SafeSport training

/// FOR LEVEL 3 THROUGH LEVEL 5 CERTIFICATION AND COURSE  
INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.TEAMUSA.ORG](http://WWW.TEAMUSA.ORG)





10612 Augusta Road  
Belton, SC 29627  
(321) 247-7761

[www.TrailLifeUSA.com](http://www.TrailLifeUSA.com)

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