

BOY SCOUT RIFLE SHOOTING ACTIVITIES  
2009 - 2010

**Rifle Merit Badge**

- Covers many aspects of rifle shooting such as safety, cleaning and storage, ammunition, shooting fundamentals and 2 range sessions
- Requires a minimum of 2 evenings to complete

**National Shooting Sports Foundation Patch**

- Includes safety instruction, shooting fundamentals and 1 range session
- Can be completed in one evening

**Scout Sharpshooter Challenge**

- Covers safety instruction, shooting fundamentals and one range session
- Scouts will shoot 5 targets with 5 rounds each
- A record will be kept of each individual's score and the troop's combined average
- At the last Round Table in the spring, the 3 troops with the highest scores will be awarded trophies. The top three individual shooters from all the scouts who participated will also receive awards.

Where: The Beaver Valley Rifle and Pistol Club  
Route 51, next to Brady's Run Park  
Website: [bvrpc.org](http://bvrpc.org)

When: Wednesdays or 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Fridays, September - May,  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m., indoor range

Participants: Scouts ages 11 and up with written parental consent

Group size: maximum 12 (a troop may come more than once)

Cost: FREE (donations accepted)

Equipment: all provided

Instructors: Individuals working with the scouts are all certified NRA Rifle Instructors, NRA Range Safety Officers and Rifle Merit Badge counselors

For Reservations or Questions:

Contact: Evelyn Gower: 724-847-7560 or email: [evgower@yahoo.com](mailto:evgower@yahoo.com)

## RIFLE MERIT BADGE

### **BSA Standards include:**

- Rifles must be bolt-action, .22 caliber, and must be loaded one round at a time.
- Eye and ear protection are mandatory.
- All training and shooting activities must be supervised by a currently certified NRA rifle instructor or NRA coach who is 21 or older.

**Goal:** To provide beginning shooters with an introduction to the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to own and use a bolt-action .22 caliber rifle.

### **Format:**

- The merit badge requirements are in bold print with the number and letter of each requirement beside it. Some instruction will be done in a classroom and some on the range. Groups of more than 6 will be divided.
- Two sessions are a minimum to cover all of the requirements. Additional sessions may be scheduled as necessary.

**Clothing:** The meeting room is warm, but the indoor range is chilly. Dress in layers.

### **Session I, Part A – Classroom (all scouts)**

#### **2a. Identify the 3 main parts of a rifle and tell how they function.**

1. Stock – the handle by which the rifle is held and which holds the other groups together.
2. Barrel – the metal tube through which the projectile passes when the rifle is fired.
3. Action – the group of moving parts that load, fire and unload the rifle.

#### **Other parts:**

1. Magazine – a container with a spring into which several cartridges can be placed.
2. Safety – a mechanical device designed to prevent a gun from accidentally firing. NEVER depend on it as a substitute for the safety rules. You are the ultimate safety.

#### **2b. Identify and demonstrate the three fundamental rules for safe gun handling.**

1. The “Golden Rule” of gun safety: Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

Note: What word do all of these rules start with?

You will be asked to write all of these rules at the end of Session II in order to get your merit badge.

**Six steps necessary to verify that a rifle is in a safe condition:**

1. Keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. Keep yOur finger off the trigger.
3. Engage the safety if possible.
4. If the rifle has a magazine, remove it.
5. Open the action.
6. Visually inspect the chamber.

**2d. Explain to your counselor what a misfire, hangfire, and squib fire are and explain the procedures to follow in response to each.**

1. Misfire – happens when a cartridge does not fire when the firing pin hits the primer. When this happens, the shooter must keep the gun pointed in a safe direction and wait for at least 30 seconds before opening the bolt.
2. Hangfire – in rare cases, the priming compound will not ignite immediately but may ignite after a delay. Late ignition of the round is called a hangfire. The possibility of a hangfire is why the gun is pointed in a safe direction for at least 30 seconds. At that time the bolt may be opened and the misfired cartridge removed.
3. Squib round – the primer ignites, but there are not enough gases to force the bullet out of the barrel. If the round fired did not sound right, not did it hit the target, stop. Raise your hand and explain the situation to the range safety officer. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO SHOOT ANOTHER ROUND** because the bullet may be lodged in the barrel. The proper procedure is to remove the bolt and inspect the barrel from the breech end. If the bullet is in the barrel it should be removed with a cleaning rod from the breech end of the barrel.

Dominant Eye: perform a simple exercise to determine.

**On the indoor range: (all scouts)**

Position: refers to the way you hold your body and the way you hold the rifle when firing a shot. Shoulder a rifle on the same side as your dominant eye. You will be shooting from the supported prone position.

Natural Point of Aim (NPA): is where the rifle points when the body is at rest. A good shooting position will allow the rifle to point directly at the target, naturally, without any “muscling” by the shooter.

How to check for NPA:

- Relax in position with the head against the stock.
- Close the eyes for a few seconds.
- Open the eyes and see where the rifle is pointing.

**2e. Identify and demonstrate the five fundamentals of shooting a rifle safely.**

1. Aiming: is the process of lining up the shooter's eye, the rifle and the target. Aiming is done in two steps. 1) Sight Alignment – the alignment of the eye, rear sight and front sight. 2) Sight picture – the relationship between the aligned sights and the target.
2. Breath Control: to minimize body movement while firing a shot, the breathing cycle is interrupted.
3. Hold Control: means keeping the aligned sights aimed as closely as possible on the center of the target. It is the most important period in firing a shot. It won't be mastered in 2 shooting sessions.
4. Trigger Control: pull the trigger straight back when your hold is best. Slowly squeeze the trigger.
5. Follow-Through: is maintaining position, aim, breath control, hold control and trigger control before and immediately after firing the shot. Follow-through allows the rifle to recoil and return to its natural point of aim.

**If group has more than 6 scouts, it will be divided. Half will remain on the range to do the shooting requirements and half will return to the classroom for Session I, Part B. Upon completion of this segment, the two groups will change places**

**2g. Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to safely shoot a rifle from the benchrest position or supported prone position while using the five fundamentals of rifle shooting.**

You will shoot 5 rounds on each of five targets. Any one of these targets with a score of 35 points or more may be used to earn the National Shooting Sports Foundation patch.

**2k. Using a .22 caliber rimfire rifle and shooting from a benchrest or supported prone position at 50 feet, fire five groups (three shots per group) that can be covered by a quarter. Using these targets, explain how to adjust sights to zero a rifle.**

You will be shooting 5 shots per group instead of 3. Any of these targets may also be used to earn the patch.

.

**Session I, Part B Classroom**

**1a. Explain why BB and Pellet guns must always be treated with the same respect as firearms.**

**1b. Describe how you would react if a friend visiting your home asked to see your or your family's firearm(s).**

**2c. Identify the two types of cartridges, their parts and how they function.** (see illustration on separate page)

Four Basic Parts of all Cartridges:

1. Case – the container in which the ammunition parts are assembled.
2. Primer – what ignites when hit by the firing pin. The primer in turn ignites the powder.
3. Powder – a chemical compound that when ignited produces gases under great pressure which propel the bullet out of the gun.
4. Bullet – the projectile that is shot by the rifle. Normally made of lead.

**2f. Identify and explain each rule for safe shooting.**

1. Know your target and what is beyond.
2. Know how to use a gun safely.
3. Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
4. Use only the correct ammunition for the gun.
5. Wear hearing and eye protection. **(1c. Explain the need for, and use and types of eye and hearing protection.)**
6. Never use alcohol or drugs before or when shooting.
7. Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
8. If you find a gun: stop, don't touch, leave the area, tell an adult
9. When handing a firearm to another person, keep it pointed in a safe direction, your finger off the trigger, the gun unloaded.

**1h. Explain to your counselor the proper hygienic guidelines used in shooting.**

Do not eat or drink when shooting. Wash your hands and face after you shoot. It is a good idea to change your clothes if you shoot for hours or are using an indoor range. Lead dust settles on your hands, face and clothing. Lead is poisonous

**All scouts – classroom**

**2k. Explain how to zero a rifle.**

**Conclusion for Session I**

**Session II**

**Quiz:** Write the 3 fundamental gun safety rules.

**Review** the fundamental gun safety rules and ammunition malfunctions.

**If more than 6 scouts, the group will be divided in half and one group will be on the range and the other in the classroom.**

**Range:**

**2l. Demonstrate your ability to use the shooting fundamentals by shooting five shot groups (five shots per group) in which all shots can be covered by or touch a quarter.**

**Classroom:**

**1d. Give the main points of the laws for owning and using guns in your community and state.**

(Refer to enclosed handout. If you would like additional information check PA Firearms Laws on-line or through the Sheriff's office.)

The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned. (Pennsylvania Constitution, Article 1, Section 21)

**1e. Explain how hunting is related to the wise use of renewable wildlife resources.** (see handout)

**1f. Obtain a copy of the hunting laws for your state. Explain the main points of hunting laws in your state and give any special laws on the use of guns and ammunition.** (see handout)

**2j. Discuss what points you would consider in selecting a rifle.**

1. What do you want to use the rifle for?
2. Proper stock fit and a comfortable weight.
3. Sights that are easy to use.
4. How much money can you spend? How expensive is ammunition?

**1i. Give your counselor a list of sources that you could contact for information on firearms and their uses.** (Please write three and bring with you.)

**2h. Identify the basic safety rules for cleaning a rifle and identify the materials needed.**

**2i. Demonstrate how to clean a rifle properly and safely.**

**1g. Identify and explain how you can join or be a part of shooting sports activities.**

1. Participate in the Beaver Valley Rifle and Pistol Club Jr. Rifle League
2. Do a NRA Qualification Program
3. Participate in the Beaver County Youth Field Day

**Conclusion for Session II**

**Schedule additional shooting sessions if necessary**

## **The Beaver Valley Rifle and Pistol Club**

505 Constitution Blvd.  
Beaver Falls, PA 15010  
724-843-9594  
[info@bvrpc.org](mailto:info@bvrpc.org)

### **YOUTH CONSENT AND PERMISSION FORM**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the parent or legal guardian of  
\_\_\_\_\_, give my permission for him to participate in a  
.22 rifle shooting activity at The Beaver Valley Rifle and Pistol Club. I  
understand that this activity will be under the supervision of National Rifle  
Association certified rifle instructors and that my child will be given safety  
instruction prior to shooting and will be provided with eye and ear  
protection.. However, in the event of an accident or injury, I do hereby  
release the instructors and The Beaver Valley Rifle and Pistol Club from all  
claims or demands for injury which may result from this activity.

\_\_\_\_\_  
parent or guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
date