



Trail Life[®]

SHOOTING SPORTS GUIDEBOOK

For Troop Leaders



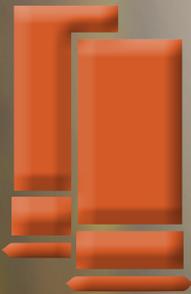
BB & Pellet Guns



Paintball & Airsoft



Pistol



Shotgun



Rifle



Muzzleloader



Archery



Hunting



Competition





Get Ready for Adventure!

Are your Trailmen ready for shooting sports adventure? This document will help the leaders in your Troop plan safe, exciting, and fun-filled shooting sports events for Trailmen of all ages. Trail Life'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 is flexible and designed from the ground up to maximize a boy's opportunity to be exposed to fun-filled shooting sports activities.

Program Vision

The vision for Shooting Sports in Trail Life is to embody the concepts of American heritage, individual responsibility, and adventure for members of Trail Life through a safe yet diverse shooting sports program that is tailored to embrace regional differences.

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 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 learn about them in Trail Life's safe, Christ-centered environment or from unhealthy cultural examples.

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 Constitutionally protected freedom to enjoy firearms is something to thank God for, and ought not to be taken for granted. Understanding this concept will frame shooting sports in a distinctive manner compared to other youth shooting sports programs while reinforcing a Trailman's knowledge of a uniquely patriotic American pastime.

Adventure

Trailmen are drawn to and remain in Trail Life for the promise of adventure. Trail Life offers the most diverse youth shooting sports program globally, encompassing a wide range of adventurous activities within the shooting sports realm. Trail Life provides members with opportunities to engage in all activities in a uniquely Christ-centered environment.

Regional Differences

Trailmen are drawn to and remain in Trail Life for the promise of adventure. Trail Life offers the most diverse youth shooting sports program globally, encompassing a wide range of adventurous activities within the shooting sports realm. Trail Life provides members with opportunities to engage in all activities in a uniquely Christ-centered environment.

4-Question Activity Authorization

How Does My Troop Get Started?

Troop leaders considering a shooting sports activity should be able to answer “Yes” to each of the following questions:

1. Is the 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?
4. Has the risk been determined, and has mitigation been taken?

Note: *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 these questions for your Troop.*

Some activities that are legal in some areas of the country may not be in others. Securing your charter organization's approval and connecting your Troop to the appropriate and qualified supervision who has adequately mitigated the risks for your shooting sports adventure is key to providing a safe and fun-filled atmosphere.

Faith & Shooting Sports

Character, Integrity, Honor, & Sportsmanship

Character is defined as the 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 a 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).

Integrity means following your moral or ethical convictions and doing the right thing in all circumstances, even when nobody is watching you. Trailmen engage in a range of shooting sports competitions, from individual pursuits like marksmanship to team activities like Paintball. Regardless of the sport, they prioritize sportsmanship, embracing principles such as winning without boasting and losing without complaining. Guided by scripture, they emphasize diligence, courtesy, kindness, and self-control, fostering teamwork and appreciating diverse talents. Trailmen refrain from criticizing other Trailmen or engaging in derogatory talk, instead choosing to encourage and applaud positive plays, creating a positive atmosphere of camaraderie. This aligns with Jesus' teaching to love God and neighbors (Matthew 22:37-39).

Additional 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;"
- 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 - "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; 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."

Embracing the Gold Standard in 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 the 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.

When Using or Storing a Gun, Always Follow These Rules from the National Rifle Association (NRA)

- **Know your target and what is beyond.** Equally important, be aware of the area beyond your target. This means observing your prospective area of fire before you shoot. Never fire in a direction in which there are people or any other potential for mishap. Think first. Shoot second. Know how to use the gun safely.
- **Before handling a gun, learn how it operates.** Know its basic parts, how to safely open and close the action, and how to remove any ammunition from the gun or magazine. Remember, a gun's mechanical safety device is never foolproof. Nothing can ever replace safe gun handling. Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
- **Just like other tools, guns need regular maintenance to remain operable.** Regular cleaning and proper storage are a part of the gun's general upkeep. If there is any question concerning a gun's ability to function, a knowledgeable gunsmith should look at it. Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.
- **Only BBs, pellets, cartridges, or shells designed for a particular gun can be fired safely in that gun.** Most guns have the ammunition type stamped on the barrel. Ammunition can be identified by information printed on the box and sometimes stamped on the cartridge. Do not shoot the gun unless you know you have the proper ammunition. Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
- **Guns are loud, and the noise can cause hearing damage.** They can also emit debris and hot gas that could cause eye injury. For these reasons, shooting glasses and hearing protectors should be worn by shooters and spectators. Never use alcohol or over-the-counter, prescription, or other drugs before or while shooting.
- **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 responsible Trailman recognizes that his tools, seen as gifts from God, require proper care. Regular cleaning is essential for the correct and safe operation of the gun, preserving its value and longevity. It should be cleaned after each use and especially before firing if it has been stored for an extended period. Accumulated moisture, dirt, or solidified grease and oil can hinder proper functioning. Always ensure the gun is unloaded with the action open during cleaning, and remove any ammunition from the area. Choose a disturbance-free environment, and if interrupted, restart the process with a thorough check for an empty gun and an ammunition-free space.

Transportation of Firearms to Trail Life Events

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

GUNS AND AMMUNITION MUST ALWAYS TRAVEL SEPARATELY.

- Ammunition and guns may ONLY be together when on a range and ONLY when instructed by a qualified supervisor/range safety officer.
- After a participant finishes a course of fire, firearms must again be cased separately from ammunition before leaving the firing line.
- An open bolt indicator must ALWAYS be inserted into the action of all guns to demonstrate that the gun is unloaded.
- Guns must travel to/from TLUSA events in cases.
- The direction of the muzzle must be clearly indicated on the gun case if the muzzle direction is not obvious from the case design.
- Cases must be opened with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction (i.e., downrange).

Shooting Sports Range First Aid Kit

You need to have a firearms first aid kit that is different and **MORE SUBSTANTIAL** than a normal first aid kit. The first aid kit should be consistent with the skills of the medical personnel present.

Building Your Troop's Range Kit

A Trailman should be ready for anything. In addition to the skills needed in an emergency, he must also have the necessary tools nearby. Troops participating in shooting sports activities in Trail Life 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 Technicians (NAEMT) Prehospital Trauma Life Support/Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC).

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 Pack, Qty. 4
- Hemostatic Gauze, 5 yds.
- Hemostatic Gauze, 10 yds.
- Elastic Wrap, 2 in.
- Teflon Trauma Dressing, 10x30
- Teflon Coated Elastic Gauze Bandage, 4
- Alcohol Prep Pads, Qty. 20
- Nasopharyngeal 28 Fr airway with 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
- Cat Tourniquet, GEN 7, any TCCC-approved tourniquet, consider additional qty.
- Biohazard Trash Bag
- Trauma Shears, 7.5 in.
- Non-Latex Exam Gloves, 5 pair
- Ink Pen and Notebook

Optional Additions

- Burn Kit
- Insect Sting Kit

In addition to your Troop's Range Kit, always check upon arrival at 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.**

Required First Aid Certification Levels

At least one adult leader present during the entire shooting activity must hold a valid Basic First Aid, CPR, and AED certification before engaging in any Troop shooting sports activity. Additionally, it is recommended that Troops have as many youth Trailmen as possible certified in Basic First Aid, CPR, and AED before shooting sports activities.

Stop The Bleed training is highly recommended as additional training which at least one registered adult should have. Online training is available at www.StoptheBleed.org.

Wilderness First Aid Certified personnel, Professional First Responders, or medically trained personnel are approved and encouraged to serve as medical leads in all shooting sports activities.

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.*

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 specific instruction.

Required Classroom Supervision

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 from the approved group of certifying entities.

Required Range Supervision

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 from the approved rifle 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 policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life 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). another civilian, national, regional, or state credentialing organization in existence for greater than 10 years with a full or partial youth instruction emphasis and shotgun-specific instruction.

Required Classroom Supervision

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 approved group of certifying entities.

Required Range Supervision

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 Shotgun Instructor or Certified Shotgun Coach, a current certified 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 policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life activities.

Pistol

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 pistol-specific instruction.

Required Classroom Supervision

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 from the approved group of certifying entities.

Required Range Supervision

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

Muzzleloaders

Certifying Entities

National Rifle Association (NRA), National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA), 4H, 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 muzzle-loader-specific instruction.

Required Classroom Supervision

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 from the approved group of certifying entities.

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 period of instruction, at least one current and active Certified NRA Muzzleloading Instructor or NMLRA Instructor must conduct the training.

Additional Requirements/Notes

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 period of instruction, at least one current and active Certified NRA Muzzleloading Instructor or NMLRA Instructor must conduct the training.

Archery

Certifying Entities

USA Archery, National Field Archery Association (NFAA), Archery Shooter's Association (ASA), National Archery in Schools Program (NASP), 4H, 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 archery-specific instruction.

Required Classroom Supervision

All forms of classroom instruction involving the use of Archery equipment shall be supervised by at least one current and active Certified USA Archery Instructor or Coach, National Field Archery Instructor, Archery in School Instructor, or another certified instructor from the approved group of certifying entities.

Required Range Supervision

All supervision or instruction on the range, including but not limited to instruction or practice with archery equipment, including live courses of fire, shall be supervised by at least one current and active Certified USA Archery Instructor or Coach, National Field Archery Instructor, Archery in School Instructor, or another certified instructor from the approved group of certifying entities.

Additional Requirements/Notes

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

Paintball

Certifying Entities

ASTM International (activity must comply with all relevant standards)

Required Classroom Supervision

All forms of classroom instruction involving the use of a paintball firearm 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 policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life activities.

Consult Trail Life Connect Documentation.

Airsoft

Certifying Entities

ASTM International (activity must comply with all relevant standards)

Required Classroom Supervision

All forms of classroom instruction involving the use of an airsoft firearm 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 policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life activities.

Consult Trail Life Connect Documentation.

BB/Pellet/Air

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 discipline-specific instruction.

Required Classroom Supervision

All forms of classroom instruction involving the use of BB, Pellet, and/or Air guns and associated accessories shall be supervised by at least one designated Trail Life Registered Adult serving as the Safety Instructor or Coach who is well-versed in following/teaching the gold standard gun safety rules as described in this document. This individual should also be very familiar with basic gun safety and the operations of the applicable firearms being used.

Required Range Supervision

All supervision or instruction on the range, including but not limited to instruction or practice with a BB, Pellet, and/or Air firearm, including live courses of fire, shall be supervised by at least one current and active Certified Instructor or Certified Coach from the applicable shooting discipline. In addition to the Certified Instructor or Certified 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 policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life activities.

Note: *The NRA rulebooks and Basic Shooting Guides are great resources to equip Troop leaders.*

Rulebooks (rulebooks.nra.org/):

- NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting SKU: NR40830EF13182
- NRA Basics of Pistol Shooting SKU: NR40830ES30605

Competitions

Certifying Entities

Unless an event is operated under the procedures of another organization involved in the activity (other than Trail Life), 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), 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 an NRA competition), the Trail Life leader(s) responsible for supervising youth at a competition must also ensure that youth traveling with handguns carry the required forms as legally applicable, which might include a pistol possession form and a competition proficiency form.

Additional Requirements/Notes

The supervisor must agree to conduct themselves in a manner that supports Trail Life policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life 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), 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 hunting-specific instruction.

Required Classroom Supervision

Individuals 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

The 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 policies governing the shooting sports during Trail Life activities.

***Note:** A satellite messenger device is recommended as an additional safety gear item to be taken and used on hunting trips, especially trips that would include areas outside of cell coverage.*

Advanced Training & Leadership Opportunities

Youth Learning by Teaching Others - Firearms

Trail Life 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 that can help further their opportunities in and outside Trail Life 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), Project Appleseed (RWVA), and 4H have opportunities for Trailmen who want to continue their firearms education and take on a leadership role such as Instructor in Training, Apprentice Instructor, Assistant Instructor, or Certified Instructor in one or more Areas of Specialization (AoS) listed below. Other civilian, national, regional, or state credentialing organizations that have been in existence for more than 10 years with a full or partial youth instruction emphasis may have additional youth mentorship opportunities that Trailmen can take advantage of. These education and leadership opportunities require significant resources and time commitments. They are only recommended for Trailmen with the emotional maturity necessary to handle such a position of responsibility.

Areas of Specialization

Rifle	Shotgun	Pistol	Muzzleloader ¹
NRA	NRA	NRA	NRA
Project Appleseed	4H	Project Appleseed ²	4H
4H		4H	NMLRA

Apprentice Instructor Ratings (*Adventurers Only*)

Adventurers who want to earn an Apprentice Instructor rating must:

- 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, passed a pre-course examination, and passed 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 the 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 the NMLRA Trainer in charge.

¹ 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.

² Project Appleseed only offers an Instructor in Training program in Pistol for Guidon Trailmen age 18 and over.

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

Youth Learning by Teaching Others - Archery

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, which 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 are 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 1 Archery Instructor and ending with Level 5 NTS Coach.

Level 1 Instructor Adventurers: 15 Years or Older

The Level 1 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 1 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 1 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 or Older

The Level 2 Archery Instructor Certification Course includes the Level 1 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 1 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

Level 3 Through Level 5 Certification and Course Information

For Level 3 through Level 5 certification and course information, visit www.teamusa.org.

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