

SECTION 2: AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND EXPLANATIONS

BB GUN LEVEL 1 REQUIREMENTS

LEVEL 1: PARTICIPATION AND KNOWLEDGE (ALL RANKS)

1. Explain what you should do if you find a gun. Recite the four safety reminders.
2. On an approved range in your city or state, explain how to use the safety mechanism, and demonstrate how to properly load, fire, and secure the BB gun.
3. On an approved range, demonstrate to qualified leadership good shooting techniques, including eye dominance, shooting shoulder, breathing, sight alignment, trigger squeeze, and follow-through.
4. On an approved range, show how to put away and properly store BB gun shooting equipment after use.

TRAINING CUB SCOUTS

The objectives of this award are to teach Cub Scouts how to use a BB gun safely, to teach basic BB gun shooting skills, and to have fun. Cub Scouts should have the opportunity to fire a BB gun during the first orientation period. This activity is not intended to produce expert marksmen.

The instructor must always be mindful of his or her responsibility to make safety thoroughly understood before, during, and after instruction and practice. At the same time, he or she must have warmth, patience, and understanding for the boy who finds the skill difficult to learn.

TEACHING TIPS

The coach-pupil method is effective for all types of skill training and is particularly effective in shooting sports. To put this method into practice:

- Put the BB gun in the Cub Scout's hand as soon as possible so he can understand the BB gun while the basics are explained.
- Group participants into pairs (boy and parent/guardian would be ideal).
- The instructor demonstrates the activity or action to be followed before the whole group. When demonstrating techniques, be sure to do them correctly.
- The instructor then circulates among the pairs giving a word of advice or assistance, recognizing good work, correcting errors, and determining how well the participants understood the method.
- The boy practices while the parent coaches. Let Scouts shoot the first round. At a predetermined signal, reverse the roles. Progressively, participants are learning by observing, by doing, and by coaching.
- Use a positive approach. Use praise sincerely. Before making a correction, question the fault to find the cause. Do show a boy what he is doing wrong.
- Avoid long discussions on the parts of the equipment used. Teach just enough so participants will know how to safely use the equipment.
- Allow each boy to feel the satisfaction of hitting a target as quickly as possible.

NOTES ON BB GUN LEVEL 1 REQUIREMENTS

Level 1, Requirement 1

Explain what you should do if you find a gun. Recite the four safety reminders.

This requirement should be reviewed while the Scouts are preparing for their turn on the range or in a pre-event activity. A lively chant will help them memorize the reminders.

THE FOUR SAFETY REMINDERS

What should you do if you find a gun?



STOP!



LEAVE THE AREA!



DON'T TOUCH!



TELL AN ADULT!

Level 1, Requirement 2

On an approved range in your city or state, explain how to use the safety mechanism, and demonstrate how to properly load, fire, and secure the BB gun.

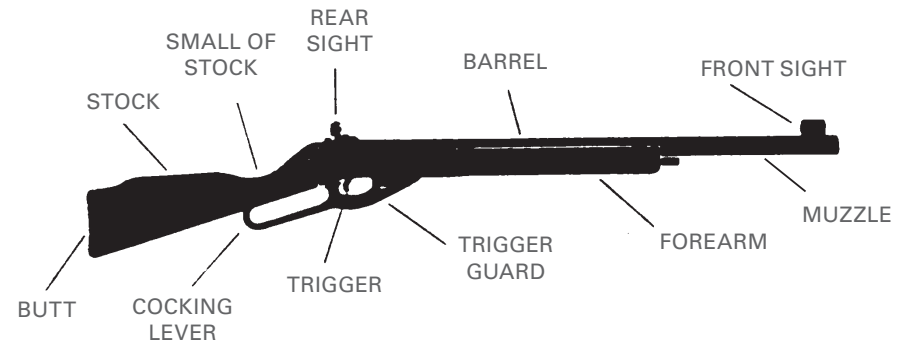
Safety Guidelines

When training youth to shoot, be sure to have proper equipment, secure and safe ranges, and clear safety instruction.

Gun safety is a simple but continuous process. Youth must first learn about safe gun handling. Safe handling skills are developed through practice. The most important safety element is attitude. All the safety

knowledge and skills are of little value unless they are used. Being safe means consciously keeping a BB gun under control.

Before handling any gun, a boy must always get permission from his parent or guardian. If this is his first BB gun shooting experience, he should sit down with an adult and discuss under what circumstances the gun can be handled. He must understand that the BB gun is not a toy.



The following basic rules apply to handling a BB gun under any circumstances. Also review any applicable local, state, and federal laws, and be sure to follow them on your range.

1. **Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.** This is the primary rule of gun safety. "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 circumstances.
2. **Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.** When holding a gun, rest your finger along the side of the gun or the trigger guard. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.
3. **Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.** When you pick up a gun, carefully point it in a safe direction. Engage the safety, if possible. Then, while keeping your finger off the trigger, open the action and look inside the chamber(s) to make sure it is clear of ammunition. If the gun has a magazine, remove it before opening the action and make sure it is empty. 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.

4. **Know how to use a gun safely.** Before handling a gun, learn how it operates. Know its basic parts and how to safely open and close the action. Know how to remove ammunition from the gun or magazine.
5. **Be sure the gun is safe to operate.** Just like other tools, guns need regular maintenance to remain in good working order. Regular cleaning and proper storage are part of the gun's general upkeep. If there is any question about a gun's ability to function, then do not use it. Get someone to fix it!
6. **Use only the correct ammunition for the gun.** Only the BB designed for a particular BB gun can be fired safely in that gun. Do not shoot the gun without loading the proper ammunition.
7. **Wear eye protection.** Always wear eye protection. Shooters and instructors should wear approved safety goggles at all BB gun ranges. BBs may ricochet.
8. **Never use alcohol or drugs before or when shooting.** Alcohol or any other substance likely to impair normal mental or physical function must not be used before or while handling or shooting guns.
9. **Don't rely on the safety.** Most guns have a mechanism called a safety that helps to prevent the gun from accidentally firing. However, a safety is a mechanical device, which can—and will—fail. Shooters must be trained that the safety mechanism is not a sure, safe way to prevent a gun from firing. Many accidents have occurred because shooters have relied on the safety mechanism to work.
10. **Wear ear protection.** Although not mandatory for BB gun shooting, ear protection may also be worn. Shots fired from guns are loud and the noise could damage the hearing of some shooters.

11. **Know your target and what is beyond the target.** Be absolutely sure to identify the target beyond any doubt. Equally important, be aware of the area beyond the target. Never fire in a direction where there are people or where any other potential for mishap might exist. Think first. Shoot second.
12. **Store guns so they are not accessible to any unauthorized person.** Deciding where and how to store guns and ammunition depends on several factors, including security and accessibility. Safe and secure storage means that untrained individuals (especially children) are denied access to guns and ammunition.

Level 1, Requirement 3

On an approved range, demonstrate to qualified leadership good shooting techniques, including eye dominance, shooting shoulder, breathing, sight alignment, trigger squeeze, and follow-through.

NOTE: The following activities can be taught in advance at a pre-event meeting or during a separate session.

Eye Dominance

Before shooting a gun, the participants should determine which eye is dominant. Just as people are either right- or left-handed, one eye is more dominant than the other. Discovering which eye a shooter favors is important because it could determine on which side the gun is held.

To find which eye is dominant, have participants extend both arms in front of them and form a small hole with their thumbs and index fingers. Instruct them to look at a distant object through the opening and then pull their hands back to their face. The eye that is in line with the object is dominant.



Shooting Shoulder

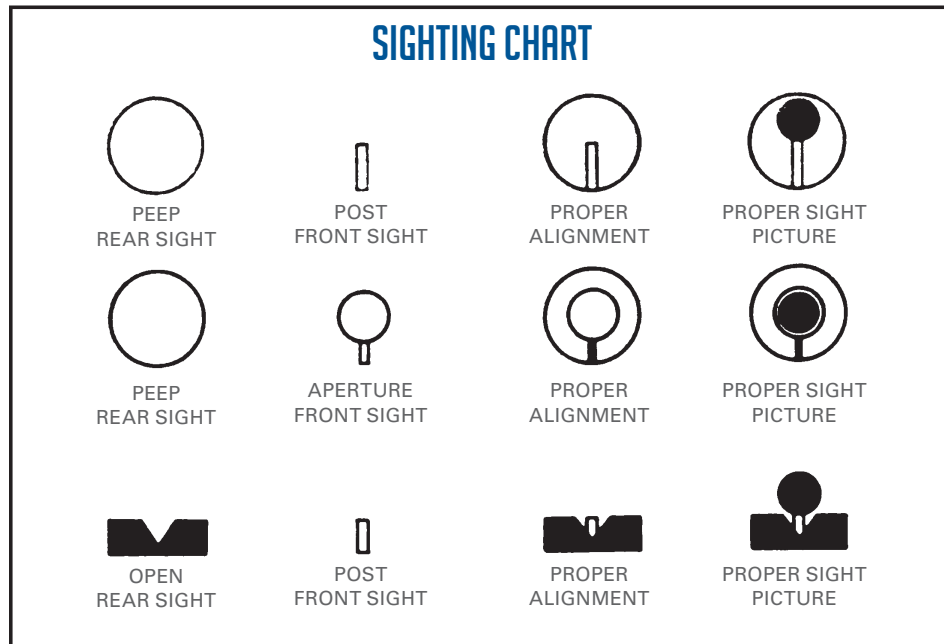
It is recommended that a shooter use the shoulder that is on the same side of the body as the dominant eye. If the right eye is dominant, place the firearm against the right shoulder. If the left eye is dominant, use the left shoulder. If the shooter has learned to use the opposite shoulder and eye, it may be more comfortable for him to shoot that way.

Breathing

When shooting, stop breathing before firing a shot. Breathing causes the body to move and makes it difficult to maintain a steady sight picture. Before firing, relax and get comfortable. Then exhale and stop breathing. This technique will help shooters aim by reducing the body and rifle movement in relation to the target. Do not stop breathing for longer than 8 to 10 seconds while aiming at the target. If you are not able to shoot within that time, stop, take a breath or two, and repeat the process.

Sight Alignment

The shooter must learn proper sight alignment. This is the relationship of the front and rear sights to the eye. The shooter's dominant eye must be lined up with the front and rear sights, and the sights must be positioned so that the front sight device is aligned properly with the rear sight.



Proper sight alignment is a key to accurate shooting. Any misalignment of the front sight with the rear sight introduces an angular error that is multiplied with distance.

A correct sight picture is obtained by achieving the proper alignment and then putting the aligned sights into their proper relationship with the target.

Trigger Squeeze

Trigger squeeze is the term used to explain the manner in which pressure is applied to the trigger. Some other terms commonly used are trigger pull, trigger control, trigger press, and trigger movement. While all of these terms are correct, the preferred term is trigger squeeze because it accurately describes the smooth application of pressure required.

When ready to begin squeezing the trigger, the index finger should be located on the trigger so that the trigger is about halfway between the tip of the finger and the first joint.

The trigger must be squeezed straight back in a smooth, continuous manner without disturbing the sight alignment. Once trigger squeeze has begun, keep squeezing smoothly and continuously; do not speed up, slow down, or apply pressure in a start-and-stop manner. Use the same type of pressure that would be used to squeeze a drop of liquid from a medicine dropper—a gradual, steady application of pressure until the drop finally falls. Just as it would be impossible to predict the instant that the drop of liquid will fall, it should be impossible to predict the precise instant that the gun will fire. Each shot should come as a surprise.

For best results, trigger squeeze and sight alignment must be done simultaneously.

Follow Through

The shooter must also master proper follow-through. Follow-through means to continue to do everything that was being done at the time the shot was fired. In other words, keep aiming until the BB hits the target.

The idea is to prevent any unnecessary movement before the projectile leaves the barrel. Because an air gun takes longer to send a projectile out of the barrel, proper follow-through is particularly important.

Level 1, Requirement 4

On an approved range, show how to put away and properly store BB gun shooting equipment after use.

Work with your range master according to local practices and procedures.

In most cases:

- The BB gun should be unloaded.
- The safety mechanism should be engaged.
- The BB gun should be protected from scratches and scrapes from other guns.
- The BB gun should be locked or otherwise secured in a safe place.

BB GUN LEVEL 2 REQUIREMENTS

LEVEL 2: SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE

To earn the Level 2 Skill and Knowledge recognition, Cub Scouts must complete the Level 1 Participation and Knowledge requirements, and do the following:

- Tigers must complete S1–S3 from the Tiger column.
- Wolves and Bears must complete S1–S4 from the Wolf/Bear column.
- Webelos and Arrow of Light Scouts must complete S1–S4 from the Webelos/Arrow of Light column.

	Tiger	Wolf/Bear	Webelos/Arrow of Light
S1	Demonstrate one of the positions associated with shooting BB guns.	Demonstrate one of the positions associated with shooting BB guns.	Demonstrate the prone, bench, and sitting positions associated with shooting BB guns.
S2	On an approved range, fire five BBs at the “TIGER” target. Score your target; then repeat and do your best to improve your score. (Fire a total of 10 BBs.)	On an approved range, fire five BBs at the “CUB SCOUT” target. Score your target; then repeat twice and do your best to improve your score each time. (Fire a total of 15 BBs.)	On an approved range, fire five BBs at the “WEBELOS/AOL” target. Score your target; then repeat three times and do your best to improve your score. (Fire a total of 20 BBs.)
S3	Demonstrate proper range commands, and explain how and when to use them.	Demonstrate proper range commands, and explain how and when to use them.	Demonstrate proper range commands, and explain how and when to use them.
S4		Tell five facts about the history of BB guns.	Tell five facts about the history of BB guns.

NOTES ON BB GUN LEVEL 2 REQUIREMENTS

Level 2, Requirement S1: Shooting Positions

Decide with input from your range master the best method and order for accomplishing this requirement.

Shooting Positions

Proper body position is essential to achieve a good shooting score. When learning any shooting position, these basic steps must be followed:

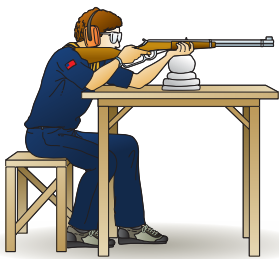
1. Study the position.
2. Practice the position without a gun. (Learn to put the feet, legs, body, head, and arms in the correct position without holding a gun.)
3. Practice the position with a gun.
4. Align the position properly with the target. Adjust the position so that the gun points naturally at the target.
5. Shoot from the position.



PRONE POSITION



SITTING POSITION



BENCHREST POSITION



FREE-ARM STANDING POSITION

Level 2, Requirement S2

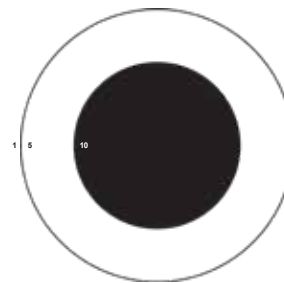
Tiger: On an approved range, fire five BBs at the “TIGER” target. Score your target; then repeat and do your best to improve your score. (Fire a total of 10 BBs.)

Wolf/Bear: On an approved range, fire five BBs at the “CUB SCOUT” target. Score your target; then repeat twice and do your best to improve your score each time. (Fire a total of 15 BBs.)

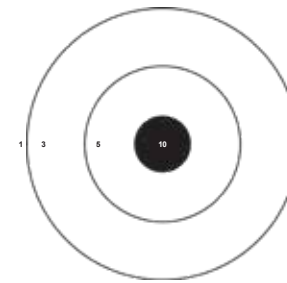
Webelos/Arrow of Light: On an approved range, fire five BBs at the “WEBELOS/AOL” target. Score your target; then repeat three times and do your best to improve your score. (Fire a total of 20 BBs.)

Leaders assisting with this requirement should keep in mind the Cub Scout motto, “Do Your Best,” at all times. The goal is for the Cub Scout to improve his technique and, as a result, improve his overall performance. There is NO specific score required for this requirement, only improvement. This may mean five misses the first time, and one hit on the target the second time. While it is clearly desired that he would improve to the point of scoring an actual target, and while it would be good to work to that goal if time allows, the requirement only requires improvement.

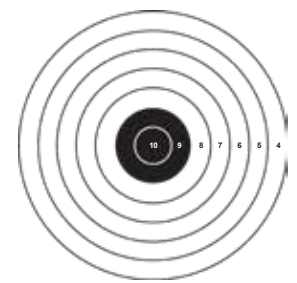
Using the designated target for each Cub Scout rank allows boys of all ages the opportunity to reach an appropriate proficiency level. There are three targets for BB guns, as shown below.



TIGER TARGET



WOLF/BEAR TARGET




WEBELOS/ARROW OF LIGHT TARGET

These targets are included for reproduction purposes in the poster section of the appendix. Each Cub Scout should use the appropriate target for his rank. When reproducing the targets, choose a paper color that contrasts with the background coloring to make “hits” easier to spot.

Level 2, Requirement S3

Demonstrate proper range commands, and explain how and when to use them.

Safety is critical at your event. The actual commands should be taught, and the Scouts should quiz each other until they acquire a thorough knowledge level. See the appendix for some common range commands, but confirm with your range master the actual commands and their meanings on your range.

	
<h3>SUGGESTED BB GUN RANGE COMMANDS</h3>	
LOAD.	LOAD YOUR BB GUN.
READY ON THE FIRING LINE.	ALL SHOOTERS ARE READY.
COMMENCE FIRING.	YOU MAY FIRE YOUR BB GUN.
CEASE FIRING.	STOP SHOOTING.
CLEAR ALL GUNS.	SHOW YOUR BB GUN IS EMPTY. LAY IT DOWN.

Level 2, Requirement S4

Tell five facts about the history of BB guns.

Using the material in this guide or another source, help the Cub Scouts learn about BB guns and their history.

A Brief History of BB Guns

In ancient history, blowguns began to appear in many different parts of the world. Although crude, these primitive weapons were very accurate. They were made from bamboo or other hollowed-out woods. A blowgun is a tube into which a hunter blows to shoot a projectile out the other end. This idea was transferred into gun form somewhere in the 1500s. The

bellows gun, invented around 1580, is the earliest known air-powered gun.

A few decades later, the first pneumatic (pump-up) air gun was created in France for King Henry IV. The nobility usually owned these early guns, since they were too expensive for commoners.

In the late 1700s, some units of the Austrian army were equipped with air rifles.

In America, records show that in the 1800s, Lewis and Clark had an air gun for hunting and for impressing the American Indians. The American Indians called it “the smokeless thunder stick.”

In 1885, in the United States, the Markham Air Rifle Company became one of the first companies to sell BB guns. These pneumatic rifles eliminated bullets and used a small pellet the size of a ball bearing, soon to be called a “BB.”

A few years later, a company that sold steel windmills decided to also sell BB rifles. By 1895, this company had stopped producing windmills and made air rifles full-time and changed the company name to Daisy.

Daisy’s guns were mostly made of steel, which improved the gun’s strength and design. The Daisy air rifle became popular very quickly, and within five years Daisy had sold 250,000 BB guns. Soon, Daisy bought out all of its competition.

Daisy also promoted to youth by making special BB guns that related with popular historical characters like Davy Crockett.

In 1984, the Olympic Games featured air guns for the first time.

Today, BB guns are still being produced in both rifle and pistol forms and are very popular among all age groups.