



Marksmanship

PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to educate Girl Scouts on firearm safety and marksmanship skills, where they can take aim at both stationary and moving targets in a safe, clean, and Girl Scout-friendly environment.



LEGACY

Did you know that Marksmanship was one of the original merit badges created by Juliette Gordon Low, or that Southeast Florida is now home to the world's most technologically advanced shooting range? This “Council’s Own” Badge program was developed by Weston Cadette Troop 10088 to learn how to stay safe around firearms and how to accurately shoot stationary and moving targets.

GIRL SCOUT LEVELS / REQUIREMENTS

To earn the Marksmanship patch, Girl Scouts must complete the following requirements.

- Cadette, Senior, Ambassador Girl Scouts only:
 - all of the starred (*) activities in the Discover section,
 - at least 2 activities in the Connect section, including the starred (*) activity, and
 - a Take Action Project

Girl Scouts will complete the steps listed below, in the chronological order, to achieve this badge.

Step 1 * Memorize the four basic principles of gun safety.

Step 2 * Understand how to safely secure and store a firearm and what to do if you see one that is not secured.

Step 3 * Learn about personal protection for your eyes and ears, and against lead exposure.

Step 4 * Learn how to safely shoot a stationary target using proper posture, grip, and range etiquette.

Step 5 * Test your new marksmanship skills on moving targets using one of the Nexus lanes' video scenarios.

Please review the [Girl Scout Internet Safety Pledge for All Girl Scouts](#).

RESOURCES

- These activities may only be attempted at a council pre-approved range, and instructor/leader/girl ratios must adhere to GS Safety Checkpoints for Shooting Sports. This badge refers to activities completed at Nexus Shooting.
 - Contact for Nexus Shooting is Bernie Hsiao, (954) 587-8005, <http://www.nexusshooting.com>
- Closed-toes shoes (sneakers) are required. Long pants, long sleeves or a jacket, and hair pulled away from your face or a cap are recommended.
- At the end of this packet (see “Resources”), you will find the following:
 - Basic Principles of Gun Safety
 - How to Store Firearms Properly in Your Home
 - GS Safety Checkpoints for Shooting Sports, as of June 2017
- Useful resources can be discovered online or by visiting your local county library. Some resources to get you started are below.
 - [USA Shooting](#)
 - [USA Youth Education in Shooting Sports](#)
 - [National Rifle Association Explore Safety and Education](#)
 - [National Shooting Sports Foundation Safety Resources](#)

ACTIVITIES

DISCOVER

Step 1

- **ACTIVITY #1 ***
Write the four basic principles of gun safety from memory.
- **ACTIVITY #2 ***
Recite from memory the four basic principles of gun safety to your instructor or parent.
- **ACTIVITY #3 ***
Draw an infographic explaining the four basic principles of gun safety. (Infographics are a visual way to display information so it can be easily understood at a glance.)

Step 2

- **ACTIVITY #1 ***
Talk with your instructor about how to safely secure a firearm and what you should do if you see one that is not safely secured.
- **ACTIVITY #2 ***
Ask your parents, relatives, or friends about how their family safely stores their firearm(s).
- **ACTIVITY #3 ***
Perform a short skit demonstrating what you should do if you ever see a firearm that is not safely secured.

Step 3

- **ACTIVITY #1 ***
Write a script for a commercial explaining the importance of eye and ear protection on the range, and how to properly wash your hands with de-leading soap.
- **ACTIVITY #2 ***
Design a poster explaining the importance of eye and ear protection on the range, and how to properly wash your hands with de-leading soap.
- **ACTIVITY #3 ***
Demonstrate proper use of eye and ear protection on the range, and how to properly wash your hands with de-leading soap.

Step 4

- **ACTIVITY #1 ***
With an instructor's guidance, load a .22 bolt-action rifle, and fire 10 rounds at a 12" target @ 7 yards with 70% accuracy.
- **ACTIVITY #2 ***
With an instructor's guidance, load a .22 semi-automatic rifle, and fire 10 rounds at a 12" target @ 7 yards with 70% accuracy.
- **ACTIVITY #3 * (AGES 14+ ONLY)**
With an instructor's guidance, load a .22lr handgun, and fire 10 rounds at a 24" target @ 7 yards with 70% accuracy.

Step 5

- **ACTIVITY #1 ***
With a .22 rifle, hit 50% of the large moving rubber ducks in the "Shooting Gallery" video scenario on Nexus lanes.
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- **ACTIVITY #2 ***
With a .22 rifle, hit 2 out of 5 of the swinging plates on the "Nexus Star" video scenario on the Nexus lanes.
- **ACTIVITY #3 * (AGES 14+ ONLY)**
With a .22lr handgun, destroy at least 5 asteroids in the "Defending Earth" video scenario on the Nexus lanes.

CONNECT

- **ACTIVITY #1: Careers ***
Discover what careers allow you to carry a firearm and the education, experience and/or training required to pursue that occupation. Some examples are police officer, security guard, border patrol, private investigator, armored vehicle guard, gunsmith, and military service.
- **ACTIVITY #2: Law Enforcement Officer**
Speak with a law enforcement officer about gun safety issues in your community.
- **ACTIVITY #3: Improve Your Skills**
Continue to improve your marksmanship skills by practicing at a range over several months.
- **ACTIVITY #4: Military Members**
Interview a member of the military about what type of firearm training their job requires.

TAKE ACTION

Share what you've discovered while doing this program by completing a Take Action Project. Some suggestions are listed below:

- **Promote Gun Safety Awareness**
 - Host an event that promotes firearm safety and invite professionals to speak about their career which allows them to carry a firearm.
 - Gain permission from a local community organization or library to provide a display that promotes firearm safety in the home.
- **Communicate Firearm Safety in Your Community**
 - Create and share a video about what you have learned regarding firearm safety and how to safely store firearms in the home.



- Become an Advocate
 - Speak to a group of younger Girl Scouts about what they should and should not do if they ever encounter a firearm. Provide an activity that would be a helpful reminder to take home and share with their family.
- Bust Stereotypes
 - Observe how shooting sports and their related professions are marketed in the media. Do you see mostly men or women depicted? Create a Take Action Project to bust that stereotype.
- Your Choice
 - Any other activity that you can create that would raise firearm safety awareness in your community.



Resources

Basic Principles of Gun Safety

1. Always assume all guns are loaded.
2. Never point the gun at something you aren't willing to destroy.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until just before firing.
4. Know your target and what lies beyond.

How to Store Firearms Properly in Your Home

- Store firearms in a locked cabinet, safe, gun vault, or storage case when not in use, ensuring they are in a location inaccessible by children and cannot be handled by anyone without the owner's permission.
- Store ammunition in a locked location separate from firearms.
- Educate everyone in the family about firearm safety.



Girl Scout Safety Activity Checkpoints for Shooting Sports, 2021 Edition (https://www.gssef.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gssef/documents/Safety%20Activity%20Checkpoints_Revised%20April%202020.pdf)

Council Approval: Required

Target and Shooting Sports—Master Progression Chart

Shooting Type	Grade Level/ Minimum Age	Participant- to- Instructor Ratio	Instructor/Expert Certification
Slingshot	D B J C S A	D, B 5:1 J C S A 10:1	One adult instructor is trained in slingshot safety, form, and technique, range rules, and emergency procedures.
Target Paintball	B J C S A	B 5:1 J C S A 10:1	One adult is trained in paintball safety, range rules, and emergency procedures.
Air/BB Guns	B J C S A	B 5:1 J C S A 10:1	One adult is a certified National Rifle Association range safety officer or USA Shooting Sports instructor.
Archery	B J C S A	B 5:1 J C S A 10:1	One adult is certified by National Field Archery Association, USA Archery, or Easton Foundation.
3-D Archery	C S A	10:1	One adult is a certified by National Field Archery Association, USA Archery, or Easton Foundation. Or demonstrated equivalent experience.
Ax/Knife/ Hatchet Throwing	C S A	2:1	Adult instructors are trained and experienced in blade throwing safety specific for the ax, knife, or hatchet being used including proper form and technique, range rules and specifications, and emergency procedures.
Rifle	Age 12 & older	8:1	One adult is a certified National Rifle Association range safety



			officer or USA Shooting Sports instructor.
Shotgun-Trap/Skeet Shooting	Age 12 & older	8:1	One adult is a certified National Rifle Association range safety officer or USA Shooting Sports instructor.
Muzzle Loading	Age 12 & older	2:1	One adult is a certified National Rifle Association range safety officer or USA Shooting Sports instructor.
Pistol	Age 14 & older	4:1	One adult is a certified National Rifle Association Range Safety Officer or USA

About Shooting Sports

Why teach shooting sports? Handling a gun and good marksmanship develop positive traits such as patience, discipline, determination, focus, attention to detail, and persistence. Since these skills are key elements of leadership and confidence, we encourage girls to take what they learn from any sport or activity and apply it in their lives, communities, and the world.

Learning how to handle guns properly and safely is of paramount importance, as is the healthy respect girls will develop when properly trained in shooting sports. There are a variety of styles and sizes of guns, each appropriate for specific grade levels. The guns girls will be learning on are for the express purpose of safe target shooting. Girls are not permitted to hunt.

Note: Refer to Target and Shooting Sports Master Progression Chart for age and grade level requirements. Written permission must be obtained by your council in advance of the activity. Once approved, you must have written permission from a parent/guardian before a girl is permitted to participate in target shooting.

Learn More:

- Safety re: various shooting sports/events, and youth videos: [USA Shooting](#)
- More safety information: [National Rifle Association](#)
- Safety at home and on the range: [National Shooting Sports Foundation](#)
- Trap and skeet shooting for high school girls: [USA High School Clay Target League](#)
- Safe shooting certification: [USA Clay Target Safety](#)
- Learn how to shoot: [Revolutionary War Veterans](#)



Include Girls with Disabilities

Talk to girls with disabilities and their caregivers and ask about needs and accommodations.

Equity

In addition to physical and social-emotional disabilities consider the history, culture, and past experiences of the girls in your troop that could affect a girl's ability to equally participate in an activity. Work with girls and families to understand how an activity is perceived. Ensure that all girls and their families feel comfortable that they have access to whatever is needed to fully participate such as the proper equipment, prior experiences and skills needed to enjoy the activity.

Safety Activity Checkpoints

(https://www.gssef.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gssef/documents/Safety%20Activity%20Checkpoints_Revised%20April%202020.pdf)

Standard Safety Guidelines. Refer to the “Standard Safety Guidelines” section (p. 4 – 22) at the top of Safety Activity Checkpoints. These standard safety guidelines apply to all Girl Scout gatherings and activities. When the adult-to-girl ratio, or other safety parameters, are stricter for a specific activity than in the Standard Safety Guidelines always follow the stricter parameters in the activity chapter.

COVID-19 Guidelines. Review the “Coronavirus Safety in Girl Scouts” section under the “Standard Safety Guidelines” (p. 4 – 22) section and be certain to consult your council's specific COVID-19 guidance which can be accessed under the same section. When applicable, always call ahead to the vendor, property or facility involved to check for their COVID-19 safety requirements as you prepare to take girls for this activity.

Emergency Action Plan (EAP). Review and document your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) ahead of time before taking girls out for this activity. Think through scenarios of what can go wrong such as an accident, physical injury to a girl or adult, missing girl, or sudden illness.

Assess participants' maturity level. Participants must be old enough to understand safety procedures and handle equipment so as not to endanger themselves and others.

Verify instructor knowledge and experience. One adult needs to be a certified National Rifle Association Range Safety Officer (RSO) or USA Shooting Sports instructor or have equivalent certification or documented experience and skill teaching/supervising firearm safety or shooting sports according to your council's guidelines.



Note: The instructor to participant ratio is not the same as the adult to girl ratio that is found in “Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints 2020.” Both the instructor ratio and the adult to girl ratio must be complied with when girls are participating in target sports.

Connect with your Girl Scout council for approved sites. Groups are required to use council approved indoor and outdoor firing ranges. Council must approve all sites in advance.

Keep in mind that safe sites include those where:

- Equipment is stored in a box, closet, or cabinet and locked when not in use.
- Ammunition and firearms are stored in separate locked containers or areas with different locks and combinations.
- Caliber firearms have working trigger locks for storage (exceptions: BB and air guns).
- Equipment, including targets, and checked each time and in good condition.
- Clear safety signals and range commands to control the activity are posted and taught to all participants in advance of stepping on to the range.
- Backstops or a specific safety zone are set behind the targets.
- Clearly delineated rear and side safety buffers are known to the entire facility population.
- The shooting line is clearly defined.

At an indoor range, check that:

- Targets are well-lit.
- Doors or entries to the range are locked or blocked from the inside.
- Fire exits are not blocked.
- Ensure equipment is properly sized for the girls.

At an outdoor range, check that:

- Targets are not placed in front of houses, roads, trails, or tents.
- Areas with pedestrian traffic are avoided.
- Areas are clear of brush. A hillside backstop is recommended.
- The shooting area and the spectator area behind the shooting area are clearly marked.
- In the shooting area, there is a safe distance at least 100 yards behind the targets and 30 yards on each side of the range.
- The range is not used after nightfall.

Girls should learn about shooting. Girls develop skills based on proper procedures and form, handling the equipment, getting the right stance, sighting, and observing safety practices.



Ensure to always keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction. This is the primary rule of target shooting sport safety. A safe direction means that the firearm 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 front end of the firearm is pointed, *always*.

On the Day of Shooting:

Dress appropriately. Make sure girls and adults avoid wearing dangling earrings, bracelets, and necklaces that may become entangled in equipment. Tie back long hair.

Limit shooters' exposure to lead. For firearm sports, be sure that the range safety officer and/or the instructor provide wet wipes for the girls to cleanse their hands and faces immediately after shooting.

In addition, the girls must return to a restroom facility and wash their hands and faces with soap and cold water. Cold water keeps pores closed so that less lead is absorbed into the blood stream. Girls should not take casings as souvenirs.

Ensure the instructor reviews the rules and operating procedures with girls beforehand. The instructor covers safety procedures, including:

- No dry firing, as it can damage equipment.
- Keep the safety clip on until it is time to shoot.
- Always keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction, away from self and others.

Safety and Required Gear

- Firearm (automatic firearms are not permitted at any time)
- Ammunition
- Targets
- Safety glasses
- Ear protection
- Barrel-blocking device (sleeve) for paintball
- CO2 or compressed air tank for paintball
- Paintball hopper (loader) for paintball

These checkpoints should be reviewed with the vendor, facility, or your council as appropriate.