

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Hudson Valley Council BSA Rifle Ranges

Introduction

Use of the Camp Bullowa or Camp Nooteming Rifle Ranges by scouting units must be arranged in advanced by contacting the Hudson Valley Council (HVC) Office.

BSA guidelines require at least one National Rifle Association (NRA) certified Range Safety Officer (RSO) and one NRA certified Rifle Instructor (RI) for each eight shooters in order to operate the facility (refer to § VIII. Guide to Safe Scouting attached and NYS Penal Law §265.05 and §265.20 attached). Valid credentials from the NRA must be provided to the camp staff.

Shooters under the age of 12 are prohibited by NYS Law from using the HVC's 22 cal. rifles. Cub Scouts can only shoot Air & BB guns at HVC sponsored events and not at the unit level.

Range Orientation

Prior to the use of the range the RI's and the RSO's shall meet with either the Camp Ranger (CR) or the Range Master (RM) to receive instruction on the use of the range facilities.

Opening the Range

Prior to the start of any shooting activity the CR or RM will convey to the RI and the RSO the responsibility of the range, rifles, ammunition and supplies.

The RSO is responsible for:

- Conducting an inspection of the range in accordance with the Outdoor Range Inspection Checklist. (attached)
- Setting up the range including target frames, bullet traps, shooting tables, shooting seats/stools, gun rest/sandbags, eye protection and hearing protection as required.
- Conducting a Safety Briefing in accordance with the BSA Shooting Sports Manual. (outline attached)
- Obtaining a roster of Safety Briefing attendees (blanks forms in RSO Log Book).
- Range Commands.
- The safe operation of the range.
- Implementation of the Emergency Plan.

Operating the Range

The RI is responsible for:

- Providing instruction on the use and care of firearms.
- Providing instruction on proper shooting fundamentals.
- Distributing loading blocks to the shooters with no more than 5 rounds of ammo.
- Collecting all used brass in the waste brass container.

- ❑ Keeping count of the number of shots fired.
- ❑ Clearing any squib loads, misfires or hang-fires should they occur.

Closing the Range

The RI and the RSO are responsible for:

- ❑ Emptying bullet traps into lead waste container.
- ❑ Repairing target frames.
- ❑ Cleaning and lubricating all rifles.
- ❑ Returning all equipment to storage.
- ❑ Sweeping the firing line clean
- ❑ Updating the RSO Log Book by:
 - ❑ Signing the Inspection Report
 - ❑ Completing the Safety Briefing Roster
 - ❑ Signing the RSO Log (blanks forms in RSO Log Book)

At the conclusion of the shooting activity the CR or the RM will inspect the range, rifles and equipment for damage and relieve the RI and the RSO of the responsibility for the range, rifles, ammunition and supplies.

Rifles

HVC has 22 caliber target rifles available for use by scouting units. Personal rifles can only be brought into camp with the permission of the CR or the RM. These rifles must be 22 caliber rim fire. No magnums or 17 caliber rifles are permitted. All rifles are restricted to manual single round loading. All rifles brought into camp must be surrendered to the CR or RM upon entering the camp. While at camp these rifles will be stored with the HVC rifles.

Ammunition

Each camp has available 22 caliber ammunition for use in the camp rifles. Ammunition will not be supplied by the camp for rifles brought into camp. The CR and the RM will inspect the ammunition before permitting its use on the range. All ammo must be standard velocity .22 cal short, long or long rifle with a round nose bullet of at least 36 grains. No magnum, high velocity or hollow point bullets are allowed. All ammunition brought into camp must be surrendered to the CR or RM upon entering the camp. This ammo will be stored in the camp ammo locker.

Handguns

Handguns are prohibited from the camp unless they are part of a Hudson Valley Council approved Venture Program. Refer to the BSA Shooting Sports Manual for requirements.