



Archery

Council Approval: Required – Submit form #2129 Activity/Trip Permission for troop/girl participation. Volunteers certified to facilitate archery program - Submit #1073 Application for Event Approval for stand-alone archery program.

Vendor Approval: Required – when using a Vendor/Outfitter for this high adventure activity and/or ranges not owned by council.

Activity Permitted For: B J C S A

3-D Archery Permitted For: C, S, A

Not Permitted For: Daisies

Note: Volunteer or instructor must hold the required certifications before facilitating this activity. Instructors, vendor and/or facility must review this checkpoint prior to the activity.

About Archery

One of the oldest weapons and hunting methods, archery is still used for its traditional purposes, but is more common today in the United States as a recreational and competitive activity. There are a variety of styles and sizes of bows and arrows, but they're all used for one purpose: to hit a target. Girls will develop skills based on proper procedures and form, handling equipment, getting the right stance, sighting, and observing safety practices. Bows and arrows should be appropriate to the age, size, strength, and ability of the girls. Girls do not aim at people, ever, or targets in the image of human beings.

Archery is *not permitted* for Daisies; however, Daisies may participate in using slingshots as a progression to learning the rules and range commands for archery. Slingshots for Daisies can be an easy to use alternative when the equipment is designed for children of that grade level and body size. Participants must be old enough to understand safety procedures and handle the equipment so as not to endanger themselves and others. Refer to the Sling Shot SAC for more details. Nerf archery is another alternative to teaching progression and learning archery rules and range commands.

3-D Archery. Cadettes and older may participate in a 3-D archery course where a girl moves up to the target that could be set up between trees and use a target that is other than a circular shape in order to enhance accuracy and skill level. Girls do not shoot at targets in the shape of human beings.

Learn More:

- Archery tournaments and events: [National Field Archery Association](#)
- Archery clubs/events: [Team USA Archery](#)
- Videos on archery basics: [YouTube](#)

Include Girls with Disabilities

Talk to girls with disabilities and their caregivers. Ask about needs and accommodations. See [Disabled Sports USA](#) and [Team USA](#) for more about equipment, adaptations, and finding a program near you.

Safety Activity Checkpoints

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. Ensure that bows and arrows are appropriate to the age, size, strength, and ability of the girls.

A beginner uses arrows that extend one to two inches in front of the bow when the bow is at full draw.

Verify instructor knowledge and experience. One adult needs to be a certified USA Archery instructor or have equivalent certification or documented experience according to your council's guidelines. Ensure that there is a ratio of one instructor for every ten girls. Archery on a 3-D course is well supervised and appropriate to age, skill level, and location of shooting.

Note: The instructor-to-participant ratio is not the same as the adult-to-girl ratio found in "Introduction to *Safety Activity Checkpoints 2020*." Both ratios must be complied with when girls are participating in target sports. For example, if there are 15 Girl Scout Cadettes on the shooting line, there must be two instructors plus two adult Girl Scout volunteers (who are not instructors).

Shooting Type	Grade Level/ Minimum Age	Participant-to- Instructor Ratio	Instructor/Expert Certification
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	B J C S A	10:1	One adult is a certified by National Field Archery Association, USA Archery, or Easton Foundation. Or demonstrated equivalent experience.

Select a safe site. Check with council staff to see if an approved vendor list is offered. If the council does not have an approved vendor list, look for organized indoor and outdoor archery ranges. Call the facility to determine the following safety information is in order:

- Equipment is stored in box/closet/cabinet and locked when not in use.
- Equipment, including targets, are 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.
- Shooting line is clearly defined.

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 50 yards behind the targets and 15-20 yard safety zone on each side of the range. Safety zones are to be roped off or fenced so that access is blocked.
- The range is not used after nightfall.

At an indoor range, make sure:

- 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.
- Compound bows are offered in both right- and left-handed models, are the proper size, and have the correct draw weight for the girls.
- Only target tip arrows are used, never broad head/hunting tips.

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

Always keep the bow pointed in a safe direction. This is the primary rule of target sport safety. A safe direction means that the bow is always pointed down range toward the target 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 bow is pointed at all times.

Ensure that equipment to be used is in good condition. Make sure that the equipment is clean, in good working order, and nothing is broken or loose. Targets and backstops for targets need to be in good repair. Equipment is not splintered and bowstring is not frayed.

On the day of shooting:

Dress appropriately for the activity. Make sure girls and adults avoid wearing dangling earrings, bracelets, necklaces or body piercings that may become entangled in equipment. Also, have girls tie back long hair.

Ensure the instructor reviews the rules and operating procedures with girls beforehand.

The instructor covers all safety procedures, including:

- Safety whistle commands and archery range rules
- No “dry” firing, as it can damage equipment and people
- Always keeping the bow pointed down range in a safe direction
- Demonstrating proper arrow retrieval

Safety and Required Gear

- Wrist, finger, and arm protection, such as arm guards (right- and left-handed models) and finger tabs
- Bows and arrows
- Targets
- Quivers