

Hi Folks. I need to deviate from my plan to continue the articles on how the 5 fundamentals of shooting correlate to goal setting and achievement. I will resume next month on the topic of Trigger Control.

This month, I want to offer an overview of the levels of training and supervision that are required in Boy Scout Shooting Sports programs and encourage your interest in attending upcoming trainings to earn needed certifications.

The National Rifle Association (NRA) offers a variety of trainings and certifications that the Boy Scouts of America use to define their Shooting Sports supervision requirements. To manage a shooting range, the “rangemaster” must be a certified Range Safety Officer (RSO). The RSO certification course offers training on standard operating procedures for running a range, range inspection and rules, firearm stoppages and malfunctions, and range safety briefings.

Additionally, to operate a range for BSA shooting sports, the rangemaster must be an NRA-certified instructor for the specific discipline that will be practiced on the range (rifles, shotguns, or pistols). To earn an instructor certification, you must complete 3 training courses:

- Basic Instructor Training (BIT)
  - o Covers general techniques for instructing shooters
- Discipline-Specific Basic Training
  - o Covers knowledge and skills needed for success in operating each type of firearm
- Discipline-Specific Instructor Training
  - o Covers instructional practices specific to each type of firearm

As you can see, the standards set by the BSA for the individuals who manage Shooting Sport activities for youth are high. Some of these courses are frequently offered and easy to attend, but others are harder to complete. In partnership with the Kenmore Gun Range, the Mount Baker Council is pleased to offer the following trainings to support Shooting Sports activities with our Scouts.

- o February 23: Range Safety Officer (RSO) Training
- o March 16: Basic Instructor Training (BIT)
- o March 23: NRA Rifle Instructor Training
- o March 30: NRA Shotgun Instructor Training
- o June 1: NRA Pistol Instructor Training

Additionally, there are a multitude of opportunities to earn the Discipline-Basic certifications. The following locations offer Basic Rifle and Basic Shotgun monthly:

- Kenmore Gun Range: [www.wcwi.org/education-and-training/nra-certified-classes/](http://www.wcwi.org/education-and-training/nra-certified-classes/)
- Chief Seattle Council, BSA, Camp Pigott
  - o Basic Rifle: [bob@thepalmers.com](mailto:bob@thepalmers.com)
  - o Basic Shotgun: [johnpanella55@gmail.com](mailto:johnpanella55@gmail.com)

An exciting feature of the Fire Mountain Scout Camp shooting ranges, new in 2018, is our Cowboy Action Range. Venturing youth, Sea Scouts, and Scouts BSA members who are 14

years of age or older (or 13 and have completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade) may participate in this activity that includes rifles, shotguns, and pistols. To operate the Cowboy Action Range at full capacity, we need to expand our pool of NRA-trained instructors in each discipline. If you have an interest in shooting sports, I would like to encourage you to attend these trainings and get certified. Help us share the value of the BSA's shooting sports program with all our youth. I'll see you there!