

# **Non-Commercial Range Approval for Shooting Sports By Units, Districts, and Councils**

## **When does this apply?**

This policy is intended to ensure safe use of private property, non-commercial ranges. Council owned ranges and commercial ranges operating as a business and with the presence of Range Safety Officers (RSOs) are not subject to this policy. Private ranges, including clubs, and public ranges without RSOs are subject to approval under this policy before the property may be used for any official Boy Scout activity in the Council.

## **Why is This Important?**

1. The Council and district(s) want to ensure safely hosted shooting sports at district or council events off council property.
2. The council camp ranges are not always available to units.
3. Some troops and crews are too far from council camps to use ranges for weekend programs
4. Units are currently using private property, non-commercial ranges for shooting programs with no uniform provisions to ensure safety

The National Shooting Sports Task Force and Outdoor Programs Department always recommend hosting shooting sports programs at the council camp first. The Council, as much as is practically possible, has made the camp ranges available for units to use in the offseason.

## **How does a Unit approve private property, non-commercial ranges for use?**

1. Contact the Shooting Sports Chairman or Committee for the Council or one of the district representatives on the Committee.
2. One of the Council's appointed certified NRA chief range safety officer(s) will evaluate proposed private property ranges and the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) using the attached forms. (For ranges without a SOP a generic template is provided below.) Once the forms are completed, they will be presented to the Shooting Sports Committee and Scout executive for approval and are to be used by local units, districts, or the Council.
3. The range is approved for two years if there are no changes to the range site or approved SOP.
4. Renewal is completed following the same process – reviewing the actual use, accidents, near misses, and whether it is still needed to provide program for youth.
5. The Council will keep a file in one location with all applications approved and/or not approved as part of the Council's permanent records.

# Permission to Enter Upon and Use Land

This agreement is made on \_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_ with his/her residence at \_\_\_\_\_ ("Landowner"), and Palmetto Council with its principal place of business at \_\_\_\_\_ ("BSA Council").

WHEREAS Landowner owns or controls the access rights to the property described in paragraph 1 below (the "Land"); and

WHEREAS BSA Council desires to use the Land (or a portion thereof) for non-commercial recreational purposes, specifically as a temporary outdoor shooting range;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration for the mutual covenants and promises set forth in this agreement, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. **Permission to Enter and Use.** Landowner hereby grants BSA Council, its officers, directors, employees, agents, members, volunteers, invitees, and representatives (collectively, the "BSA Council Parties"), permission to enter upon and use the land (including all [strike all that are not granted] buildings, structures, and other such appurtenances thereto) situated at

\_\_\_\_\_ (Street address) in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (City) (State)

(the "Land"; see Exhibit 1), for non-commercial recreational purposes during the period \_\_\_\_\_ (MM/DD/YY)

through \_\_\_\_\_, specifically for the construction and operation of a temporary outdoor shooting range. (MM/DD/YY)

2. **Inspection; Equipment.** Landowner does not and shall not object to a certified National Rifle Association ("NRA") chief range safety officer approved by BSA Council entering upon the Land for the purpose of inspecting the Land during or prior to the period set forth in section 1. BSA Council Parties may bring onto the Land reasonable amounts of equipment necessary to construct and operate a temporary shooting range. Landowner will not be responsible for the maintenance, storage, or security of said equipment.

3. **Fee.** Access to and use of the Land as set forth in paragraph 1 above is provided at no charge. None of the BSA Council Parties is or will be liable to Landowner for any fees, payments, royalties, or other remuneration, whether financial or otherwise, for the right to enter upon and use the Land.

4. **Compliance; No Waiver.** BSA Council Parties will adhere to all applicable laws and regulations at all times while on the Land. This agreement does not constitute a waiver of any legal right or defense to which either party may be entitled.

5. **Representations and Warranties.** Landowner represents and warrants that he or she is the sole owner of the Land or has obtained a sufficient property interest necessary to grant access to the Land. BSA Council represents and warrants that it has, and shall maintain throughout its use of the Land, general liability insurance covering losses and damages, including bodily injury and property damage, arising from authorized Scouting activities.

6. **Binding Effect.** This agreement will be binding on the parties' heirs, legal representatives, successors, and assigns.

7. **Types of ranges that can be used, initial all that are approved**

\_\_\_\_\_ Rifle \_\_\_\_\_ Shotgun \_\_\_\_\_ Pistol  
\_\_\_\_\_ Muzzleloading rifle \_\_\_\_\_ Muzzleloading shotgun \_\_\_\_\_ Muzzleloading pistol

**Landowner**

**BSA Council**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Land to Be Used by BSA Council Parties**  
(Include a map or drawing of the Land and applicable range layouts.)

# Evaluation of Private Property Shooting Ranges

## Private Property Range Evaluation Checklist

Once evaluated by an NRA chief range safety officer, a private property range may be approved by the BSA council for use by Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers as long as the range remains unaltered and continues to meet all requirements set forth by the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the specific range, as approved. If the range remains unaltered, it will only need to be reevaluated by the NRA chief range safety officer and approved by the BSA council on a bi-annual basis. If any alterations are made to the range before its bi-annual evaluation, an NRA chief range safety officer must reevaluate the range, and the SOP must be revised accordingly.

### Range Evaluation Process

- Only a currently certified NRA chief range safety officer approved by the BSA Palmetto Council may evaluate private property, non-commercial ranges to be used as a range by the Boy Scouts of America.

- The property owner(s) must complete and submit to the council office the provided Permission to Enter Upon and

Use Land form stating that they understand the liability they are undertaking by allowing the use of their property by the BSA. The property owner must also provide a copy of the completed form to the council shooting sports chair.

- After evaluation of the land by the CRSO, the CRSO, the property owner, and the council should consider the need for the property owner to carry liability insurance covering the council's use of the land. Among the considerations should be the condition of the land and whether any buildings or structures existing on the land will be used by the council. **The BSA's general liability policy provides coverage for a bodily injury or property damage claim that is made and arises out of an official Scouting activity, but it does not provide coverage for the property owner's property or any improvements to the property.** A description of the coverage provided can be found on Scouting Safely at [www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Alerts/Insurance.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/Alerts/Insurance.aspx).

- The NRA chief range safety officer must complete the Private Property Range Evaluation Checklist below and submit it together with a copy of the range SOP to the BSA council office (with a copy given to the council shooting sports chair) showing he or she has evaluated the property and that it meets all guidelines set forth in the *Boy Scouts of America National Shooting Sports Manual* and/or the *NRA Range Source Book*.

### Characteristics of a Safe Range: NRA Chief Range Safety Officer Must Initial

CRSO \_\_\_\_\_ The perimeter must be a natural or man-made barrier, such as side berms, water, or a cliff, or visibly marked off with caution tape or other material so no one can enter downrange or that entry into the shooting zone can be clearly detected (example: if shooting a shotgun over a pond or lake, taping or barriers may not be practical. But in such an open area, detection of intrusion into the shooting zone can be observed.)

PAW

CRSO \_\_\_\_\_ The backstop/impact area must be of a size and material to stop projectiles that are fired. Reference the *NRA Range Source Book* for information.

CRSO \_\_\_\_\_ The fall area for shot being used must be appropriate for shotgun shooting.

CRSO \_\_\_\_\_ The range layout and limits must be acceptable. Reference the *NRA Range Safety Officer Course* guide, Lesson IV, and/or the *NRA Range Source Book* for diagrams of different ranges.

CRSO \_\_\_\_\_ The target area and targets must be clearly defined.

CRSO \_\_\_\_\_ The range must be clear of debris; all obstacles that could interfere between the shooter and the designated target must have been removed.

CRSO \_\_\_\_\_ The ready area and firing line must be clearly identified with a designated safe waiting area for spectators.

CRSO \_\_\_\_\_ The NRA range safety officer must have a clear view of the firing line. Additional spotters may be needed.

CRSO \_\_\_\_\_ All benches, tables, seats, and gun racks must be of solid, sturdy construction if present.

CRSO \_\_\_\_\_ There must be provisions that ensure the securing of all firearms and ammunition when not in use.

CRSO \_\_\_\_\_ There must be an SOP on site for the range safety officer's use.

CRSO \_\_\_\_\_ A range flag, first-aid kit, communication devices, and hand-washing station must be provided.  
CRSO \_\_\_\_\_ The NRA Safe Gun Handling Rules poster must be available and reviewed with shooters.  
CRSO \_\_\_\_\_ When shooting on a range without a bullet impact backstop, such as a desert or salt flats, etc., the impact area must be under visual observation of the NRA range safety officer or a separate individual designated by the RSO to observe the impact area from a vantage point. The impact area is defined as the area downrange of an outdoor range where the bullet will impact if not captured in a backstop. The impact area must be large enough to contain the largest caliber firearm fired on the range if it were to travel its maximum distance. If the impact area cannot be observed, the area must be marked off with a fence or caution tape. A backstop is defined as a device constructed to stop bullets from leaving the range. For more information on backstops, refer to the *NRA Range Source Book*.

### **Acceptable Firearms and Ammunition**

Reference the *Boy Scouts of America National Shooting Sports Manual*, chapter 5, "Range Operation."

\*Note: The standard operating procedures must include a statement that the NRA range safety officer has the right to inspect all firearms and deem if they are safe for use on the range. If the RSO is unfamiliar with a particular firearm, the shooter must provide an instruction manual for the firearm in question prior to any shooting.

### **Range Supervision**

(Reference the *Boy Scouts of America National Shooting Sports Manual*, "Five Levels of Shooting Activities.")

### **Range Supervision Minimum BSA Requirements**

A certified NRA range safety officer is to directly supervise all live fire on the range. Additionally, the instruction offered must be given by a currently certified National Camping School shooting sports director certified as an NRA instructor in the discipline being offered, or a certified NRA instructor in the discipline being offered, or an NRA/USA Shooting/CMP certified coach in the discipline being offered. These must be two separate individuals. The ratios of range safety officers and instructors per shooter in the different disciplines are:

- **Rifle:** One NRA range safety officer per eight shooters. One NRA rifle instructor to eight shooters while firing.
- **Shotgun:** One NRA range safety officer must be present for each group of a maximum of six shooters. One NRA shotgun instructor for each student is required when loading and firing a shotgun.
- **Pistol:** One NRA range safety officer per three shooters. One NRA pistol instructor or NRA/USA Shooting/CMP certified pistol coach per two shooters while loading and shooting.
- **Muzzleloading rifle:** One NRA range safety officer per eight shooters. One NRA/NMLRA rifle instructor or National Muzzleloading Rifle Association rifle instructor per shooter while firing.
- **Muzzleloading shotgun:** One NRA range safety officer must be present for each group consisting of five shooters. It must be 1-to-1 NRA or NMLRA muzzleloading shotgun instructor to student ratio when loading and firing a shotgun.
- **Muzzleloading pistol:** One NRA range safety officer per eight shooters. One NRA or NMLRA muzzleloading pistol instructor per shooter while loading and while firing.

### **NRA Chief Range Safety Officer**

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# Specific Event NRA Range Safety Officer Check Sheet for Private Property Shooting Ranges

## Characteristics of a Safe Range: NRA Range Safety Officer Must Initial

RSO \_\_\_\_\_ The perimeter must be a natural or man-made barrier, such as side berms, water, or a cliff, or visibly marked off with caution tape or other material so no one can enter downrange or that entry into the shooting zone can be clearly detected (example: if shooting a shotgun over a pond or lake, taping or barriers may not be practical. But in such an open area, detection of intrusion into the shooting zone can be observed.)

RSO \_\_\_\_\_ The backstop/impact area must be of an appropriate size and material to stop projectiles from the firearms and ammunition that are to be used. Reference the *NRA Range Source Book* for information.

RSO \_\_\_\_\_ The fall area for shot being used must be appropriate for shotgun shooting.

RSO \_\_\_\_\_ The range layout and limits must be acceptable. Reference the *NRA Range Safety Officer Course* guide, Lesson IV, and/or the *NRA Range Source Book* for diagrams of different ranges.

RSO \_\_\_\_\_ The target area and targets must be clearly defined.

RSO \_\_\_\_\_ The range must be clear of debris; all obstacles that could interfere between the shooter and the designated target must have been removed.

RSO \_\_\_\_\_ The ready area and firing line must be clearly identified with a designated safe waiting area for spectators.

RSO \_\_\_\_\_ The NRA range safety officer must have a clear view of the firing line. Additional spotters may be needed and should be used as necessary.

RSO \_\_\_\_\_ All benches, tables, seats, and gun racks must be of solid, sturdy construction if present.

RSO \_\_\_\_\_ There must be provisions that ensure the securing of all firearms and ammunition when not in use.

RSO \_\_\_\_\_ There must be an SOP on site for the range safety officer's use.

RSO \_\_\_\_\_ A range flag, first-aid kit, communication devices, and hand-washing station must be provided.

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- **Muzzleloading pistol:** One NRA range safety officer per eight shooters. One NRA or NMLRA muzzleloading pistol instructor per shooter while loading and while firing.

## NRA Range Safety Officer

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_