



INTRODUCTION

The certified NRA shotgun instructor who is serving as the merit badge counselor will need the following reference materials:

NRA FIRST Steps Shotgun and Orientation Lesson Plans, No. 13392–3/2/10, and BSA *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet, No. 35948.

The purpose of this manual is to integrate the BSA *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet with the NRA FIRST (Firearm Introduction, Responsibility and Safety Training) Steps Shotgun Orientation Lesson Plans to allow those NRA certified shotgun instructors who teach according to this manual to accumulate the five courses and a total of 25 students required to be eligible to attend an NRA Training Counselor Workshop.

In teaching the Shotgun Shooting merit badge, the counselor/instructor must:

1. Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Shotgun Orientation Lesson Plans, adding the BSA merit badge requirements as noted. This outline applies ONLY to Merit Badge Option A—Modern Shotshell Type.
2. Reference BOTH the BSA *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet and the NRA FIRST Steps Shotgun Orientation Lesson Plans to complete the Training Counselor Workshop eligibility requirement.

NOTE: There are a few requirements of the Shotgun Shooting merit badge that are not covered in the NRA FIRST Steps Shotgun Orientation Lesson Plans which must be supplemented accordingly.

Each Scout should have his own copy of the BSA *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet.

Revised 1/11/2014 to six hours (seven hours if five-day program)

Note: If a Scout needs extra time in order to qualify for score, it is recommended that the merit badge counselor suggest that they return to the range during open shooting opportunities for further coaching.

Day 1

Lesson I. Introduction to Shotgun Safety, Parts, and Operation—1½ Hours

Paragraph A. Orientation—10 minutes

Step 1: Have Scouts fill out their merit badge record card or council-furnished documentation.

Steps 2–9: Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plans.

Step 10: Distribute the BSA *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet instead of the FIRST Steps Shotgun book.

Paragraph B. Introduce Lesson—5 minutes.

Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan. Note that you are only stating the learning objectives for this lesson and not going into detail at this point.

Paragraph C. Shotgun Safety—20 minutes

Steps 1–2: Follow the FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Step 3: Teach the NRA Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling.

Note: Step 3 covers BSA Requirement 2b.

Identify and demonstrate the rules for safely handling a shotgun.

Refer Scouts to *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet pages 23 and 24 titled “Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling” and use NRA FIRST Steps Rule 3.

Teach: Follow BSA *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet page 4, requirements 1a–b. The requirements are listed below along with references to teach from. **Note: These requirements are not found in the FIRST Steps Shotgun Lesson Plan.** Teach these requirements prior to continuing with the First STEPS Shotgun Lesson Plan Paragraph D.

BSA Requirement 1a.

Explain why BB and pellet air guns must always be treated with the same respect as firearms.

Refer Scouts to *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet page 25, “BB and Pellet Air Guns.”

BSA Requirement 1b.

Describe how you would react if a friend visiting your home asked to see your or your family's firearm(s).

Refer Scouts to the *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet. There is no exact quote. Use page 28, “Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.”

Paragraph D. Safe Shotgun Handling Practical Exercise—15 minutes

Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Note: This covers BSA Requirement 2b.

Identify and demonstrate the rules for safely handling a shotgun.

Refer Scouts to *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet pages 23 and 24 titled “Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling.”

Paragraph E. Shotgun Parts: Major Components—5 minutes

Steps 1–3: Teach as shown below. **Note:** Teach all action types: pump, hinge, and semiautomatic.

BSA Requirement 2a.

Identify the principal parts of a shotgun, action types, and how they function.

Refer Scouts to *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet page 10, “Shotgun Parts,” and page 17, “The Safety.”

Paragraph F. Shotgun Parts—5 minutes

Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Paragraph G. Paragraph G was inadvertently skipped.

Paragraph H. Skip as this was just covered in depth above.

Paragraph I. Shotgun Operation—5 minutes

Steps 1–2: Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Paragraph J. Shotgun Operation Practical Exercise—5 minutes.

Paragraph K. Conclude Lesson—5 minutes

Steps 1–3: Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Day 2

Lesson II. Introduction to Ammunition and the Fundamentals of Shotgun Shooting—1½ Hours

Paragraph A. Introduce Lesson—5 minutes

Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Paragraph B. Shotgun Ammunition—10 minutes

1. Ammunition compatibility

Note: Follow the BSA *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet page 5 requirements 2c and d. The requirements are listed below along with references to teach from. **These requirements are not found in the FIRST Steps Shotgun Lesson Plan.** Teach these requirements prior to continuing the FIRST Steps Shotgun Lesson Plan, Paragraph B item 2 *Ammunition malfunction*.

Teach: BSA Requirement 2c.

Identify the parts of a shotgun shell and their functions.

Refer Scouts to *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet page 18, “Shotgun Ammunition,” and page 19, “How Shotgun Ammunition Fires.”

BSA Requirement 2d.

Identify the various gauges of shotguns. Explain which one you would pick for use and why.

Paragraph B. Shotgun Ammunition—10 minutes

2. Ammunition malfunction

Note: This covers BSA Requirement 2e.

Explain what a misfire, hangfire, and squib fire are, and explain the procedures to follow in response to each.

Reference *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet page 21, “Ammunition Malfunctions.”

Paragraph C. Determining the Dominant Eye—10 minutes

Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Reference *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet pages 34–35.

Paragraph D. The Fundamentals of Shotgun Shooting—20 minutes

Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Note: This covers BSA Requirement 2e.

Identify and explain the fundamentals of safely shooting a shotgun.

Reference *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet pages 34–39, “Fundamentals of Shotgun Shooting.”

Practicing the Seven Fundamentals of Shotgun Shooting—30 minutes

Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Paragraph E. Conclude Lesson—5 minutes

Day 3

Lesson III. Introduction to Shotgun Shooting at Straightaway Targets—1½ Hours

Paragraph A. Introduce Lesson—5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Paragraph B. Range Safety and Shooting Facility Orientation—5 minutes
Teach Steps 1–4 as written in the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Paragraph C. Rules for Safe Shooting—5 minutes

Note: This covers the following requirements:
BSA Requirement 2f.

Identify and explain each rule for safely shooting a shotgun.

BSA Requirement 1c.

Explain the need for and use and types of eye and hearing protection.

Reference *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet pages 26–28, “Rules for Using or Storing a Shotgun.”

Paragraph D. Preparation for Shooting Exercises—5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Paragraph E. Shooting Straightaway Targets—90 minutes

Note: This covers BSA Requirement 2g.

Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to safely shoot moving targets, using the fundamentals of shotgun shooting.

Reference *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet pages 34–44, “Fundamentals of Shotgun Shooting.”

Note: Teach BSA *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet page 5 requirement 2k. This requirement is listed below along with a reference to teach from. **This requirement is not found in the FIRST Steps Shotgun Lesson Plan.** Teach this requirement prior to continuing with the FIRST Steps Shotgun Lesson Plan Paragraph F.

BSA Requirement 2k.

Shooting score required—Hit at least 12 out of 25 targets (48 percent) in two 25-target groups. The two groups need not be shot in consecutive order.

Instructor’s Note: The second Paragraph E. Review of Shooting Practice is a printing mistake. Re-letter the paragraph to Paragraph F and Paragraph F to Paragraph G.

Paragraph F. Review of Shooting Practice—5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Paragraph G. Conclude Lesson—5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Day 4

Lesson IV. Introduction to Shotgun Cleaning, Storage, and Training Opportunities—1½ Hours

Paragraph A. Introduce Lesson—5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Paragraph B. Cleaning a Shotgun—15 minutes
Teach steps 1–3 as written.

Note: This covers BSA Requirement 2i.

Demonstrate how to clean a shotgun properly and safely.

Reference *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet pages 30–31, “Steps in Cleaning.”

Paragraph C. Hygienic Guidelines Following Exposure to Airborne Particulate Lead or Cleaning Solvent Residue—5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Note: This covers BSA Requirement 1g.

Explain to your counselor the proper hygienic guidelines used in shooting.

Reference *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet page 32, “Shooting Hygiene.”

Paragraph D. Storing a Shotgun—5 minutes
Teach steps 1–2 as written.

Teach BSA requirement 2j on page 5 of the BSA *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet. Reference “Choosing a Shotgun” on pages 46–49.—5 minutes

Note: The requirement is listed below along with a reference to teach from. **This requirement is not found in the FIRST Steps Shotgun Lesson Plan.** Teach this requirement after Paragraph D and prior to continuing the FIRST Steps Shotgun Lesson Plan Paragraph E.

BSA Requirement 2j.

Discuss what points you would consider in selecting a shotgun.

Reference *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet pages 46–49, “Choosing a Shotgun.”

Paragraph E. The “Next Step”: Additional Shotgun Shooting Activities—5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Teach merit badge requirements 1d through f and 1h through i, as listed on page 4 of the BSA *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet. Other Shooting Activities—30 minutes

Note: The requirements are listed below along with references to teach from. **These requirements are not found in the FIRST Steps Shotgun Lesson Plan.** Teach these requirements following Paragraph E-4: *Other Shooting Activities*.

BSA Requirement 1d.

Explain the main points of the laws for owning and using guns in your community and state.

Consult state or local law enforcement.

BSA Requirement 1e.

Explain how hunting is related to the wise use of renewable wildlife resources.

Reference *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet pages 81–82, “Conservation and Hunting.”

BSA Requirement 1f.

Successfully complete a state hunter education course, or obtain a copy of the hunting laws for your state, then do the following:

- (1) Explain the main points of hunting laws in your state and give any special laws on the use of guns and ammunition, and*
- (2) List the kinds of wildlife that can be legally hunted in your state.*

Refer to your state’s hunting regulations handbook.

Note: If a youth chooses to participate in a hunter education course, this merit badge training will take longer than the six to seven hours stated.

BSA Requirement 1h.

Identify and explain three shotgun sports. Identify places in your community where you could shoot these sports and explain how you can join or be a part of shooting sport activities.

Reference *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet pages 51–59, “Clay Target Sports.”

BSA Requirement 1i.

Give your counselor a list of sources that you could contact for information on firearms and their use.

Reference *Shotgun Shooting* merit badge pamphlet pages 94–95, “Shotgun Shooting Resources.”

Conclude Lesson—5 minutes

Day 5—As Time Allows

Continue qualification shooting as needed for the merit badge. If a Scout has met his shooting qualifications for the merit badge, have him continue shooting to qualify for the Winchester/NRA Qualification Program awards.