



**Certificate of Insurance (COI):** Required from vendor providing this activity for Council Approval. Visit [GSNI's webpage](#) for information on requesting a COI from the venue.

**Council Approval:** Required

As GSNI's Properties: Troops may provide their own USA Archery Level 1 Instructor to run archery range or hire a GSNI Facilitator.

Shooting Type	Grade Level Permitted	Participant-to-Instructor Ratio	Instructor/Expert Certification
Nerf Archery	D	D – 4:1	For GSNI properties, Nerf Archery is available for Daisies.
Archery	B, J, C, S, A	B – 5:1 J, C, S, A – 10:1	One adult is certified by the National Field Archery Association, USA Archery, or Easton Foundation.
3-D Archery	C, S, A	10:1	One adult is certified by the National Field Archery Association, USA Archery, or Easton Foundation, or demonstrated equivalent experience.

## 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 are all used for one purpose: to hit a target. Archers develop skills based on proper procedures and form, handling equipment, getting the right stance, sighting, and observing safety practices.

Archery is not permitted for Daisies; however, Daisies may participate in using slingshots as a progression to learn rules and range commands for archery. See the [Slingshot checkpoints](#). Bows and arrows should be appropriate to the age, size, strength, and ability of the archers. Never aim at people, ever, or targets in the image of human beings.

**3-D Archery.** Cadettes and older may participate in a 3-D archery course where a Girl Scout moves up to the target that could be set up between trees and use a target that is other than a circular shape to enhance accuracy and skill level. Never shoot at targets in the shape of human beings.

## Learn More

- Archery tournaments and events: [National Field Archery Association](#)
- Fix common archery mistakes: [YouTube](#)
- Archery clubs/events: [USA Archery](#)

**Include Girl Scout Members with Disabilities.** Talk to Girl Scout members with disabilities and their caregivers. Ask about needs and accommodations. Always be sure to contact the location and/or the instructor in advance to ensure they are able to accommodate those with disabilities. For more information, visit [Move United](#) and [USA Archery's Adaptive Archery](#) page for information on equipment, adaptations, and finding a program near you.

**Equity.** Consider the history, culture, and past experiences of the Girl Scout members in your troop that could affect their ability to equally participate in an activity. Work with members and families to understand how an

activity is perceived. Ensure that all Girl Scout members and their families feel comfortable and have access to whatever is needed to fully participate, such as proper equipment, prior experiences, and the skills needed to enjoy the activity. See the Equity section of the [Introduction to Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) for general advice about expense,

**Emergency Action Plan (EAP).** Review and document your Emergency Action Plan (EAP) before starting any activity and review it so all are prepared. Think through scenarios of what can go wrong such as an accident, physical injury, missing person, sudden illness, or sudden weather or water emergencies.

## Archery Checkpoints

**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 participants. A beginner uses arrows that extend 1 to 2 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 Girl Scouts (or five Brownies). 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 different from the adult-to-youth ratio found in [Introduction: Standard Safety Guidelines](#). Both ratios must be complied with when Girl Scouts are participating in target sports. For example, if there are 15 Cadettes on the shooting line, there must be two instructors plus two adult Girl Scout volunteers (who are not instructors).*

Troops must provide one adult certified in Adult and Pediatric CPR/First Aid/AED who is not instructing the activity.

**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 and backstops, is checked each time and is in good condition.
- Clear safety signals and range commands to control the activity are posted and taught to all participants in advance of stepping onto 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 20 yards on each side of the range.
- 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.
- Equipment is properly sized for the archers.
- Bows are offered in both right- and left-handed models, are the proper size, and have the correct draw weight for the participants.
- Only target tip arrows are used, never broadhead/hunting tips.

**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 pointed 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.

### **On the Day of Shooting**

**Dress appropriately for the activity.** Avoid wearing dangling earrings, bracelets, and necklaces that may become entangled in equipment. Also, make sure long hair is tied back and always wear closed-toed shoes.

**Ensure the instructor reviews the rules and operating procedures beforehand.** The instructor covers safety procedures, including:

- No “dry” firing, as it can damage equipment.
- Always keeping the bow pointed in a safe direction.

### **Safety and Required Gear**

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