



Council Approval: Required

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.

Activity Permitted for: D B J C S A

For GSNI Properties, one adult volunteer needs to be trained in USA Archery Level 1 Instructor.

Shooting Type	Grade Level Permitted	Participant-to-Instructor Ratio	Instructor/Expert Certification
Slingshot	D, B, J, C, S, A	D, B - 5:1 J, C, S, A - 10:1	One adult instructor is trained in slingshot safety, form, technique, range rules, and emergency procedures.

About Slingshots

Slingshots are descendants of the trebuchet and the sling—weapons used for centuries! For Girl Scouts, they serve as a progression step for target range activities like archery by teaching them about following range rules and commands as well as helping them to build target skills and hand-eye coordination.

Slingshots for Daisies should be simple, fun, and easy to use 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.

Learn More

- [How to Aim a Slingshot](#)

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.

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.

Slingshot Checkpoints

Assess participants' maturity level. Participants must be old enough to understand safety procedures and handle equipment so not to endanger themselves or others.

Verify instructor knowledge and experience. Because slingshots are intended to serve as a progression step for target sports, one adult needs to be a certified USA Archery instructor or have equivalent certification or documented experience according to your council guidelines. Ensure that there is a ratio of one instructor for every ten Girl Scouts for Juniors and older. For Daisies and Brownies, please have one instructor for five shooters.

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

Select a safe site:

- Equipment is stored when not in use and is in good repair.
- Equipment, including targets, 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.
- Shooting line is clearly defined.
- Clearly delineated rear and side safety buffers are known to the entire facility population.

At an outdoor range, check that:

- Targets are not placed in front of houses, roads, trails, or tents.
- Areas with pedestrian traffic are avoided.
- The shooting area and the spectator area behind the shooting area are clearly marked.
- 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 participants.
- "Shot" is appropriate for the range.

Girl Scouts should learn about shooting. Participants develop skills based on proper procedures and form, handling the equipment, getting the correct stance, sighting, aiming, and observing safety practices.

Always keep the slingshot pointed in a safe direction. This is the primary rule of target sport safety. A safe direction means that the slingshot is pointed toward the target or toward the ground, so that even if it were to go off it would not cause injury or damage.

On the Day of Slingshot 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:

- Always keeping the slingshot pointed in a safe direction.
- Notice form to avoid snapping wrists or hand with the band.

Basic Slingshot Range Rules

- Qualified instructor may only open this range.
- Listen to and follow all commands on the range.
- Do not pick up, load, or fire your slingshot until given the commands.
- Stand behind the firing line. Do not straddle the firing line.
- Absolutely no running on the range.
- No extra talking on the range.
- Step back from the firing line when you finish firing.

Basic Slingshot Safety Rules

- Hold slingshot pointed in a safe direction, toward the target or the ground.
- Keep ammunition in the pouch until given permission to load and fire.
- Leave the bands at rest until you are ready to shoot.

Safety and Required Gear

- Stable slingshot
- Ammunition appropriate for the targets: biodegradable clay ammo, dog food kibbles, ping pong balls, marshmallows, half-inch paintballs
- Range Rules poster