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WeTheArmed.com > Education, Competition, and Training > Firearms Training > Teaching the boy scout rifle shooting merit badge

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**Author**      Topic: Teaching the boy scout rifle shooting merit badge (Read 1468 times)

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**ksuguy**  
WTA Sr. Member  
☆☆☆☆☆  
 Offline



**Teaching the boy scout rifle shooting merit badge**  
« on: June 06, 2009, 06:17:34 PM »

Location:  
Wichita, KS

Posts: 1408



My mom still helps out with the local scout troop in my hometown. I've volunteered to help teach the rifle shooting merit badge to the six boy scouts in the unit. Two of them already earned the badge at camp last summer, but I'm sure they'll enjoy the activity anyway. I will only be covering the non-shooting portion of the course. For the shooting, we'll be taking the kids out to the local Appleseed event later this month where they can use .22s. We might just have to let them do the slow fire portion of the AQT to meet the shooting requirements since the BSA frowns on loading more than one round at a time.

Here's a link to the current requirements, and also one to the previous requirements that were in effect when I did the badge years ago. I'm going to put all the current requirements in the lesson plan, plus add in the cartridge identification and positional demonstration that were a part of the old ones. I thought those were fun and valuable information.

<http://www.usscouts.org/mb/mb123.asp>

<http://www.usscouts.org/mb/old/mb123.asp>

Worksheet:

[http://meritbadge.org/wiki/images/a/a7/Rifle\\_Shooting.pdf](http://meritbadge.org/wiki/images/a/a7/Rifle_Shooting.pdf)

So here is my current plan, let me know what you guys think of it.

1. Introduction and gun safety. Rules for safe gun handling, importance of eye and hearing protection, etc.
2. Laws and legal requirements.
3. Hunting stuff. I'm not an expert on this one since I'm not a hunter, but I can print out a copy of the regulations and go over it with them.
5. Sources for more information.
6. Identifying the parts of a rifle and how they function. I'll bring one of my rifles to show them, then have them fill in the worksheet.
7. Ammunition. I'll show them the parts of a cartridge and how they function. Then we'll go over the various types of ammunition. I've bagged up sample cartridges of a variety of different calibers ranging from .22LR to .50BMG to show them.
8. Discuss misfires, hangfires, squibs, etc.
9. Safety again, just to reemphasize it.
10. Discuss with scouts what they would look for in selecting a rifle.
11. Cleaning.
12. Movie! [http://www.archive.org/details/Rifle\\_Marksmanship\\_with\\_M1\\_Rifle\\_Part\\_1](http://www.archive.org/details/Rifle_Marksmanship_with_M1_Rifle_Part_1) I'll use my laptop to show the sections on sight alignment, positions, and trigger squeeze. After each section, I will demonstrate it live (empty rifle without bolt). I'll probably skip the section on sling use since the movie uses the 1907 match sling. None of them will have those, so I'll just go with a live demonstration with the web sling.
13. Sight adjustment. Might use the movie again, might not.
14. Fundamentals to firing a shot. Boy scout manual has five, pretty much the same thing as the 6 steps to firing a shot from Appleseed.
15. Quick overview of what to expect at the Appleseed event, range rules, etc. Show them what the targets look like, what to bring, etc.
16. Safety, one more time.

I might break this up into two separate sessions. There is quite a bit of stuff, and I want to cover it thoroughly. Anything else you guys think I should cover?

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FMJ

I believe that the term "public servant" is an oxymoron.  
WTA Family Member  
★★★★★



[Re: Teaching the boy scout rifle shooting merit badge](#)

« Reply #1 on: June 06, 2009, 06:20:28 PM »

OfflineLocation:  
PRK

Posts: 11455



"A good black coffee is like a good liquid cigar"

*Safety*, just one more time... But from what you have written above, it sounds good.

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Quote

*"I confess, without shame, I am sick and tired of fighting—its glory is all moonshine; even success the most brilliant is over dead and mangled bodies, with the anguish and lamentations of distant families, appealing to me for sons, husbands and fathers ... tis only those who have never heard a shot, never heard the shriek and groans of the wounded and lacerated ... that cry aloud for more blood, more vengeance, more desolation."*

-General William Tecumseh Sherman. May 1865, after hearing that the last Confederate armies had surrendered.

**Bo Smith**  
WTA Family Member  
★★★★★

 OfflineLocation:  
One Nation, Under  
Surveillance.

Posts: 3013



NOT a Sheepdog

[Re: Teaching the boy scout rifle shooting merit badge](#)

« Reply #2 on: June 06, 2009, 06:41:40 PM »

Drill NPOA in to them well. Kids tend to wiggle, which is not conducive to accurate shooting. NPOA separates the Riflemen from the cooks.

Logged



**ksuguy**  
WTA Sr. Member  
★★★★★

 OfflineLocation:  
Wichita, KS

Posts: 1408



'Civilization' is a thin layer of ice upon a deep ocean of chaos and darkness. -Werner Herzog

AI Gore did not invent the internet, but he did make up global warming.

<http://how-to-spell-ridiculous.com/>

[Re: Teaching the boy scout rifle shooting merit badge](#)

« Reply #3 on: June 06, 2009, 06:51:46 PM »

I just hope I don't have any that are cross eye dominant. I have a hard enough time shooting right handed when I'm right eye dominant. I also wish I had an M1 Garand for the sight adjustment and positional demonstrations since that is what they have in the movie I'll be showing.

Unfortunately, it will probably be another 3-6 months before I get my order from the CMP. I do have an M1A I could use, but I'm kind of hesitant to take such a pricey gun out where it can get dinged up. 😊

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**ShiWei**  
WTA Friend  
★★★

 OfflineLocation:  
St. Louis, MO

Posts: 123

[Re: Teaching the boy scout rifle shooting merit badge](#)

« Reply #4 on: June 06, 2009, 07:39:39 PM »

My Dad tells stories about teaching a BSA marksmanship course back in 1970. He was a 21 year old marine just back from a tour in Vietnam. When one of the boys didn't practice correct muzzle control he took the rifle away, handed him a shovel and told him "you want to play grab-ass, you deal with the consequences, now dig a grave." Two hours later, the boy seemed to have a healthy respect for muzzle control. My Dad was wound a little tight back then.

Logged

**mnw42**  
Minister of Silly  
Walks  
WTA Sr. Member  
★★★★★

 Offline

Location:

[Re: Teaching the boy scout rifle shooting merit badge](#)

« Reply #5 on: June 08, 2009, 11:29:45 AM »

Bucks Co., PA

Posts: 1493



NRA Cert. RSO,  
Pistol & Shotgun  
Instructor

What you have is pretty good...

The merit badges (shotgun and rifle) are basically abridged NRA courses. I'm pretty sure that the NRA wrote the course for the BSA. When I teach boy scouts I use my instructor's materials as a guide. I also try to keep it as simple as possible since your students may be younger than normal.

*You should stick to the outline that BSA has pretty closely.* I'd eliminate the legal and hunting stuff since that will above most of the boy's heads and you'll risk loosing their attention. You can (and should) go over that information with the parents and leaders later.

Parental involvement is important, especially if they are new to shooting as well.

"A government is a body of people, usually notably ungoverned." -Book -- "All war is deception" -Sun Tzu  
Quis custodiet ipsos custodies -- omnia dicta fortiora si dicta Latina -- History is scary - It keeps on coming true!  
-- Ni!

ksuguy

WTA Sr. Member



Offline

Location:  
Wichita, KS

Posts: 1408



[Re: Teaching the boy scout rifle shooting merit badge](#)

« Reply #6 on: June 08, 2009, 11:37:04 AM »

Well the legal and hunting stuff is in the badge requirements, that's why I included it. I'll probably not go into great depth on that part. I'm not even sure why the hunting stuff is part of the badge since rifle shooting doesn't necessarily involve hunting. I think it would make more sense to have a separate hunting badge.

As for the parental involvement, that will be a little tough. At least half of them are foster kids.

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ksuguy

WTA Sr. Member



Offline

Location:  
Wichita, KS

Posts: 1408



[Re: Teaching the boy scout rifle shooting merit badge](#)

« Reply #7 on: June 14, 2009, 01:13:41 AM »

The class part went pretty good today. Covered all the usual gun safety stuff, ammunition, parts of the rifle etc. Showed them some parts of the WWII M1 marksmanship training video then did a live demonstration on sling use and shooting positions. No shooting of course.

After that, I let them try the shooting positions with an unloaded rifle, while I coached them and made sure they were practicing safe handling. The next time I do this, I'm going to have to find a smaller and lighter gun for them to practice the positions with. The best I could do was my .22LR AR-15. Most of them thought it was pretty awesome to get to see a gun like that, but it was still a little big for some of them.

I think I can already tell which one of them is going to shoot the best. He was the smallest kid in the group, but he was really good at getting the sling and shooting positions right. Even with a gun that was too big for him. I think he was also the biggest fan of the AR. He really looks up to his older brother that is in the army, so he goes nuts for military themed stuff. His brother is due back from Iraq soon, so he might be heading to the range with us in a couple of weeks as well.

Had one more kid that might be a little trouble. He's got some sort of weird fear and disdain for firearms and just seemed pretty unenthused about the whole deal. He's also the only lefty we have and he seems to have a bit of an attitude problem, so it's going to be harder for me to teach him.

**ksuguy**

WTA Sr. Member



Offline

Location:

Wichita, KS

Posts: 1408

**Re: Teaching the boy scout rifle shooting merit badge**

« Reply #8 on: June 27, 2009, 09:19:19 PM »

Did the appleseed thing today. Went ok I guess, but if I had to do it again, I think it would have been better to wait for a cooler time of year. It was absolutely scorching out there today with high humidity, hardly any clouds, and almost no wind. Didn't start off too well since they were having trouble with the single loading. I was feeling kind of bad because they were really slowing things down for everyone else. They were able to pick up the speed after lunch though.

Most of them were fairly well behaved. Did have one that was kind of a pain in the ass. He doesn't pay attention real well and we had to be all over him to make sure he was safe. Fortunately we had several instructors in training present and one was able to spend pretty much the whole day with them. They did a great job. The same kid was also the first one to start whining about being too hot and wanting to go home early. I was kind of hoping he wouldn't be along today since he's the toughest one to handle, but that's how it goes I guess. Their shooting wasn't all that spectacular. I think they did have fun and got some improvement as the day went on, but they still need a lot more practice. Might try it again later in the fall when the weather is cooler.

As for my shooting, it wasn't that great. The conditions made it pretty tough. I probably drank a gallon of water and tried to get some shade whenever I could, but I still ended up overheating. I wasn't the only one either. On the last target, I could tell I was starting to suffer from some mild heat exhaustion. I was getting shaky and fumbling with my mags. Had trouble focusing when I tried to add up my score too, and I had to go back and redo it like 4 times. Had a few minor cramps on the ride home too, should have added some more gatorade to the water. Glad I only signed up for one day this weekend. I'll spend tomorrow relaxing in the AC.

I also made a giant mistake wearing shorts. I totally burned everything between the bottom of my shorts and the top of my socks. My forearms are pretty red too, and I'm not a person that burns easily. The scorching sun also really heated up the shooting mat. I couldn't put my legs into the right spot on the prone position without burning them on the hot mat. The gun was also kind of hot and hard to hold. My best score was 165, about the same as my best from April. I was hoping to get it a little higher, but I can't complain too much given the conditions. On the positive side, I did do quite well at the standing stage. Probably one of my best days with that.

Logged

**mnw42**

Minister of Silly Walks

WTA Sr. Member



Offline

Location:

Bucks Co., PA

Posts: 1493

**Re: Teaching the boy scout rifle shooting merit badge**

« Reply #9 on: June 28, 2009, 10:51:19 PM »

I'm happy things came together for you. After you new a few you'll find thing go smother and you'll run thought the material a bit faster. How many parents did you have?

When you are dealing with a big group youngin's you often will get one or two who really shouldn't be there for another year or two. If you are short handed or feel he'll be a problem don't be afraid to sit him down or sen him home. You can't keep the group safe and shooting if you are giving an inordinate amount of time to one or two.

Logged

NRA Cert. RSO,  
Pistol & Shotgun  
Instructor

"A government is a body of people, usually notably ungoverned." -Book -- "All war is deception" -Sun Tzu  
Quis custodiet ipsos custodies -- omnia dicta fortiora si dicta Latina -- History is scary - It keeps on coming true!  
-- Ni!

**Bo Smith**

WTA Family Member



Offline

Location:

One Nation, Under  
Surveillance.

Posts: 3013

**Re: Teaching the boy scout rifle shooting merit badge**

« Reply #10 on: June 28, 2009, 11:05:36 PM »



NOT a Sheepdog

Sorry to read of the environmental problems. In my experience, Appleseeds, like life, are either too hot, too cold, too wet, or too dry. You kind of slog through it, and prepare for all contingencies. I always keep sunscreen in my range gear, even in December, same for a boonie hat. Keep your dry-fire practice up. It does get easier.

About that "that guy", there is one at every outing.



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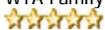
'Civilization' is a thin layer of ice upon a deep ocean of chaos and darkness. -Werner Herzog

Al Gore did not invent the internet, but he did make up global warming.

<http://how-to-spell-ridiculous.com/>

**FMJ**

I believe that the term "public servant" is an oxymoron.  
WTA Family Member



Offline

Location:  
PRK

Posts: 11455



"A good black coffee is like a good liquid cigar"



**Re: Teaching the boy scout rifle shooting merit badge**

« Reply #11 on: June 29, 2009, 12:46:48 AM »

Quote

*About that "that guy", there is one at every outing.*

FMJ

Who on one occasion almost had his left eye removed by fish hook because "that" guy didn't secure his hook to the pole.

Logged

Quote

*"I confess, without shame, I am sick and tired of fighting—its glory is all moonshine; even success the most brilliant is over dead and mangled bodies, with the anguish and lamentations of distant families, appealing to me for sons, husbands and fathers ... tis only those who have never heard a shot, never heard the shriek and groans of the wounded and lacerated ... that cry aloud for more blood, more vengeance, more desolation."*

-General William Tecumseh Sherman. May 1865, after hearing that the last Confederate armies had surrendered.

**ksuguy**

WTA Sr. Member



Offline

Location:  
Wichita, KS

Posts: 1408



**Re: Teaching the boy scout rifle shooting merit badge**

« Reply #12 on: June 29, 2009, 02:15:09 AM »

Fortunately the unit isn't very big, so there weren't too many to supervise. We had a total of 4 of them out there. There are two more, but one is afraid of guns and really didn't want to go. My mom signed him up for rifle shooting at camp, so hopefully he'll get more acclimated to it there. The other one that didn't go has a very severe case of diabetes, so we didn't think it was a good idea to bring him out in the heat. Probably a good move, I'm sure he would have had some severe health issues with the conditions we had yesterday. I wasn't expecting the problem kid to be there. My mom said he wasn't coming, but then he showed up at the last minute. I don't think age is a problem since they all range in age from about 14-17, but this one kid just can't pay attention to save his life. It's a good thing there were an abundance of IIT's in attendance so they could watch him.

It's really a shame that it was so hot and humid out there. Everyone packed it up about 4:30. If we had better weather, we could have gone another 3 hours or so. I think it was the right time to call it though. I could really tell that the heat was starting to get to me and lots of other people out there were having trouble too. There were a couple that had to go to the range owners house to cool off during the day. If we try this again, I think I'll wait until September or October. I might consider going to another on my own this summer, but it's too much of an ordeal to bring everyone else along when conditions are like this.

I wish I had a place where I could practice the positional shooting. Dry firing is ok, but it's not quite the same as the real thing. I think if I could just spend a couple hours a week shooting the aqt, I'd be able to hit that rifleman score in short order. Unfortunately, I'm stuck shooting at an indoor range most of the time.

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