



Archery

Scouts BSA · Sports

Name

Started

Completed

Archery takes focus, steady breathing, and patience, and it's a lot of fun once you get the feel of it. This badge teaches you safety first, then equipment, scoring, and real shooting. With practice you'll see your groups get tighter and your scores climb.

Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off (scouting.org/merit-badges/archery/). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

1 Archery safety

Tips for this section: Learn the range commands and safety rules until you can explain them easily. Always wait for the signal before retrieving arrows.

Example for this section: Explain the range like you're teaching a new Scout: arrows only nocked at the shooting line, bows pointed downrange, never shoot straight up, and walk, don't run, to pull arrows. Then show how to stand beside the target while pulling so no one gets hit by a nock.

- ☐ **1a** Explain what a projectile is and why anything that fires one at high speed needs careful, respectful handling and may only be used in approved places

- ☐ **1b** Explain the five range safety rules

- ☐ **1c** Explain the four whistle commands used on an archery range

- ☐ **1d** Explain how to pull arrows from the target safely and put them back in your quiver

- ☐ **1e** Tell your counselor your state and local laws on owning and using archery equipment

2 Arrows

Tips for this section: Hold real arrows and name each part out loud. Ask the range officer to show you how to check arrows for damage.

Example for this section: Lay out an arrow and name each part: point, shaft, fletching, cock feather, and nock. Compare wood, aluminum, and carbon arrows, then show how to check one by flexing it gently and listening for cracks.

- ☐ **2a** Name and point out the parts of an arrow

- ☐ **2b** Describe at least three kinds of arrows

- ☐ **2c** Name the four main materials arrow shafts are made from

2d Make or repair arrows: Choose 1 of 2

- ☐ **2d1** Build a complete arrow starting from a bare shaft, using suitable equipment you have access to

- ☐ **2d2** Show arrow repair: check the shafts, then get ready and put on at least three new vanes, one new point, and one new nock (wood, fiberglass, or aluminum arrows; use as many arrows as needed)

- ☐ **2e** Explain how to care for and store arrows properly

3 Archery gear and terms

Tips for this section: Practice using archery terms during your shooting sessions. Learn how to use, care for, and store your tab, arm guard, and quiver.

- ☐ **3a** Explain why archers use tabs, arm guards, shooting gloves, and quivers, and how to use, care for, and store each

- ☐ **3b** Explain these terms: draw length, draw weight, mechanical release, barebow

4 Rounds, styles, and scoring

Tips for this section: Score a few practice targets with a buddy. Ask your instructor about the different rounds and styles of archery.

Example for this section: Score a target with your counselor: on the five-color target each ring has a value from 10 in the center to 1 on the outside, and an arrow touching a line gets the higher score. Then explain how target, field, and 3-D archery differ.

- ☐ **4a** Explain how an end differs from a round

- ☐ **4b** Explain how field, target, and 3-D archery differ

- ☐ **4c** Explain how to score the five-color World Archery Federation target

- ☐ **4d** Explain how to score NFAA field targets (black and white) and NFAA indoor targets (blue)

5 Shooting option: Choose 1 of 2

Tips for this section: Shoot only on a supervised range with a qualified instructor. Focus on a steady routine and keep a simple score log to track progress.

Example for this section: A practice plan could be three range sessions working through USA Archery's 11 Steps of Shooting in order, scoring each end of arrows and noting one thing to fix next time, like a dropped bow arm.

5a Option A: recurve bow or longbow (also Genesis bow)

- ☐ **5a1** Name and point out the parts of the recurve bow or longbow you shoot

- ☐ **5a2** Explain proper care and storage for longbows and recurve bows

- ☐ **5a3** Show and explain the 11 Steps of Shooting from USA Archery, using your bow

- ☐ **5a4** Demonstrate how to correctly string a longbow or recurve bow

- ☐ **5a5** Use a bow square to find the nocking point on your bow's string and mark it with dental floss, a crimp-on, or another method

5a6 Qualifying score: Choose 1 of 2

5a6a One round with a recurve bow or longbow and finger release: Choose 1 of 4

- ☐ **5a6a1** NFAA field round of 14 targets, scoring at least 60 points

- ☐ **5a6a2** Scouting America field round of 14 targets, scoring at least 80 points

- ☐ **5a6a3** World Archery/USA Archery indoor round, scoring at least 80 points (you may shoot this round outdoors if easier)

- ☐ **5a6a4** NFAA indoor round, scoring at least 50 points (you may shoot this round outdoors if easier)

- ☐ **5a6b** Score at least 150 points with 30 arrows shot in 5-arrow ends at 10 yards on an 80 cm (32 in) five-color target, using all 10 scoring rings

5b Option B: compound bow

- ☐ **5b1** Name and point out the parts of the compound bow you shoot

- ☐ **5b2** Explain how to care for and store compound bows properly

- ☐ **5b3** Show and explain the 11 Steps of Shooting from USA Archery, using your bow

- ☐ **5b4** Explain why a compound bow's string or cable must be replaced by an archery shop

- ☐ **5b5** Find the nocking point on your bow's string and mark it with dental floss, a crimp-on, or another method

5b6 Qualifying score: Choose 1 of 2

5b6a One round with a compound bow and finger release: Choose 1 of 4

- ☐ **5b6a1** NFAA field round of 14 targets, scoring at least 70 points

- ☐ **5b6a2** Scouting America field round of 14 targets, scoring at least 90 points

- ☐ **5b6a3** World Archery/USA Archery indoor round, scoring at least 90 points (you may shoot this round outdoors if easier)

- ☐ **5b6a4** NFAA indoor round, scoring at least 60 points (you may shoot this round outdoors if easier)

- ☐ **5b6b** Score at least 160 points on an 80 cm (32 in) five-color target using all 10 scoring rings: 15 arrows at 10 yards, then 15 at 15 yards, all in 5-arrow ends