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Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: [Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org](mailto:merit.badge@scouting.org)

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1. Do the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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⬜ f. 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 or ammunition, and

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2. List the kinds of wildlife that can be legally hunted in your state.

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g. Explain to your counselor the proper hygiene guidelines used in shooting.

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h. Identify and explain three shotgun sports.

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

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

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2. Do ONE of the following options

A. ***Shotgun Shooting (Modern Shotshell Type) - OPTION A***

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

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| Part Name | Function |
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⬜ b. Identify and demonstrate the rules for safely handling a shotgun.

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⬜ Demonstrate how to handle shotguns in a safe manner.

⬜ c. Identify the parts of a shotgun shell and their functions.



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| Part name | Function |
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⬜ d. Identify the various gauges of shotguns.

Explain which one you would pick for use and why.

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| Gauge: |  |
| Use |  |
| Why? |  |
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| Gauge: |  |
| Use |  |
| Why? |  |
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| Gauge: |  |
| Use |  |
| Why? |  |
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| Gauge: |  |
| Use |  |
| Why? |  |
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⬜ e. Identify and explain the fundamentals of safely shooting a shotgun.

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

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|  | What is it? | Procedure to follow in response |
| Misfire |  |  |
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| Hangfire |  |  |
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| Squib fire |  |  |
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⬜ f. Identify and explain each rule for safely shooting a shotgun.

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

⬜ h. Identify the materials needed to clean a shotgun.

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⬜ i. Demonstrate how to clean a shotgun safely.

⬜ j. Discuss what points you would consider in selecting a shotgun.

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⬜ k. Shooting score required - Hit at least 12 out of 25 targets (48%) in two 25-target groups. The two groups need not be shot in consecutive order. A minimum of 50 shots must be fired.

1st Group Score: 2nd Group Score:

**Shooting skill rules:**

* *Targets may be thrown by a hand trap, manual mechanical trap, or on any trap or skeet field. Note: If using a hand trap or manual mechanical trap, the trap operator should be at least 5 feet to the right and 3 feet to the rear of the shooter. If throwing left-handed with a hand trap, the trap operator should be at least 5 feet to the left and 3 feet to the rear of the shooter.*
* *All targets should be thrown at a reasonable speed and in the same direction.*
* *Targets should be generally thrown so as to climb in the air after leaving trap.*
* *Scores may be fired at any time, either in formal competition or in practice.*
* *Any gauge shotgun not exceeding 12 gauge may be used.*
* *Only commercially manufactured ammunition may be used. Reloads may not be used in BSA shooting sports programs.*
* *Shooters must shoot in rounds of 25. Rounds need not be shot continuously on the same day (the term “round” refers to a single series of 25 shots).*
* *If using a trap field, shoot station 3 with traps set to throw straightaway targets.*
* *If using a skeet field, shoot station 7 low house.*

B. ***Muzzleloading Shotgun Shooting - OPTION B***

⬜ a. Discuss a brief history of the development of the muzzleloading shotgun.

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⬜ b. Identify principal parts of percussion and flintlock shotguns and discuss how they function.

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| Part Name | Function |
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⬜ c. Demonstrate and explain the rules of safely handling a muzzleloading shotgun.

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⬜ d. Identify the various grades of black powder and their proper and safe use.

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⬜ e. Discuss proper safety procedures pertaining to black powder use and storage.

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⬜ f. Discuss proper components of a load.

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⬜ g. Identify proper procedures and accessories used for safely loading a muzzleloading shotgun.

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⬜ h. Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to safely shoot a muzzleloading shotgun on a range, including range procedures.

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

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|  | What is it? | Procedure to follow in response |
| Misfire |  |  |
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| Hangfire |  |  |
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| Squib fire |  |  |
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⬜ i. Shoot a moving target with a muzzleloading shotgun using the five fundamentals of firing the shot.

⬜ j. Identify the materials needed to clean to clear a muzzleloading shotgun’s failure to fire and explain or demonstrate proper correction procedures..

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⬜ k. Demonstrate how to clean a muzzleloading shotgun safely.

⬜ l. Identify the causes of a muzzleloading shotgun's failure to fire and explain or demonstrate proper preventive procedures.

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⬜ m. Discuss what points you would consider if selecting a muzzleloading shotgun.

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⬜ n. Shooting skill required -- Hit at least 5 out of 15 targets in each of two 15-target groups. The two groups need not be shot in consecutive order. A minimum of 30 shots must be fired.

1st Group Score: 2nd Group Score:

**Shooting skill rules:**

* *Targets may be thrown by a hand trap, manual mechanical trap, or on any trap or skeet field. Note: if using a hand trap or manual mechanical trap, the trap operator should be at least 5 feet to the right and 3 feet to the rear of the shooter. If throwing left-handed with a hand trap, the trap operator should be at least 5 feet to the left and 3 feet to the rear of the shooter.*
* *All targets should be thrown at a reasonable speed and in the same direction.*
* *Targets should be generally thrown so as to climb in the air after leaving trap.*
* *Scores may be fired at any time, either in formal competition or in practice.*
* *Any gauge shotgun not exceeding 10 gauge may be used.*
* *Standard clay targets customarily used for trap and skeet are to be used.*
* *On a standard trap field, the shooter should be positioned 8 yards behind the trap house. The trap should be set to throw only straightaway targets*
* *On a skeet field, use station 7 low house.*

**When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088).Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from** [**http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf**](http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf)**.**

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