

Maryland Department of Health
Center for Healthy Homes and Community Services
Youth Camps

Marksmanship Safety Plan

Purpose

The purpose of a written safety plan is to inform camp staff and volunteers what actions to follow to ensure each camper's safety while running marksmanship programs. The Specialized Activity must be conducted according to the safety plan.

Training

Staff and volunteers must receive training in the marksmanship safety plan. Training must include an opportunity to discuss the plan and ask questions.

Knowledge and Conduct

Staff and volunteers must know and follow the marksmanship safety plan procedures.

- Describe the training: what/where/when. Document that each staff/volunteer was trained before camp and knows the safety plan.

Availability

A copy of the marksmanship safety plan must be available to the camp staff. The marksmanship safety plan must be on file in the headquarters or office of the camp.

- Where are copies of the safety plan kept?
- Do staff/volunteers receive a copy?

Writing a Marksmanship Safety Plan and Procedures:

Provide the following:

1. What are the health and safety risks of the activity?
2. What minimum staff qualifications are required for the activity?
3. Describe staff responsibilities for each staff position, from Counselor in Training, (CIT) to Director. When activity is not on camp premises, a director (an individual who is 21 years old or older and has at least 24 weeks of supervisory experience) must accompany the activity.
4. How is the target range located, so as to protect campers from wandering into the field of fire while engaged in other camp activities?
5. How will the direction of fire be oriented to minimize a shooter being blinded by the sun?
6. How will signs be posted to prevent the accidental entry into the field of fire?

7. How will shooters be stationed relative to each other?
8. Is there an established ready line at least 10 feet to the rear of the firing line?
9. Is the range free of any objects that may cause a bounce back or ricochet?
10. Does the range have a backstop or is there visibility greater than 3,000 feet?
11. If there is a backstop:
 - (a) Is it not less than 30 feet?
 - (b) Is it clear of brush or other objects that may obstruct visibility for at least 100 yards?
 - (c) Have cuts been taken out of the slope directly behind the targets to provide a perpendicular surface to prevent ricochets?
 - (d) Have all rocks, glass, and metal been removed from the cuts to prevent ricochets?
 - (e) Have any non-removable objects been covered with at least 6 inches of soil and been sodded or seeded to prevent ricochets?
 - (f) If a wood crib is to be used as a backstop, has it been filled with dry earth or sand; and is at least 10 feet high, by 30 inches thick, and is at least 6 feet behind the targets?
12. For air guns:
 - (a) Does the backstop comply with all other riflery requirements, as well as is covered with a soft material to prevent ricochets?
 - (b) What are the walls or side berms covered with to prevent ricochets and contain pellets?
 - (c) How are campers to be instructed before taking part in the activity?
13. How will the equipment be controlled, maintained and stored when not in use?
14. What protective equipment will be provided for safety?