

Welcome to the shooting sports exploration as part of Scouts BSA. In order to earn your merit badge while attend a shooting sports event at Lafayette Gun Club, we ask that you begin your journey by preparing yourself with a solid understanding of the three fundamental rules of gun safety and some of Virginias firearms laws and hunting regulations. This prework can be completed at the individual, patrol, or even troop level.

1. Memorize the three [primary gun safety rules](#):
 - a. ALWAYS Keep The Gun Pointed In A Safe Direction
 - b. ALWAYS Keep Your Finger Off The Trigger Until Ready To Shoot
 - c. ALWAYS Keep The Gun Unloaded Until Ready To Use

2. Become familiar with [The Scout Marksman's Code](#)
 - a. A Scout:
 - b. Always follows the rules for firearms safety.
 - c. Accepts the responsibility that goes with the use and possession of firearms.
 - d. Follows the laws that govern the use and possession of firearms in his community
 - e. Practices wildlife conservation.
 - f. Follows the spirit and the letter of the game laws.
 - g. Is especially careful to be a true sportsman when using firearms.

3. Watch this video from BSA: <https://youtu.be/LbLwfg8ns4o>

4. As part of getting to know Virginia Firearms laws, visit the [Virginia State Police Firearms Page](#) and determine how old you have to be in Virginia to purchase a rifle/shotgun or handgun. Also read the [rules on underage possession of firearms](#).

5. Visit the [Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources hunting](#) area and see if you can determine what license you need to hunt and what animals have hunting seasons in Virginia.

6. Visit the [LGC Juniors page](#) to see what programs we offer for junior shooters.

7. Finally, we highly encourage scouts to read or at least scan the applicable Merit Badge Pamphlet for the badge they are pursuing. Digital copies are available online at : <https://www.troop109nj.com/merit-badge-library/> or follow the links below. Both pamphlets have a lot of information and pictures and are great references.
 - a. [Rifle](#)
 - b. [Shotgun](#)

We looking forward to sharing your shooting sports journey with you.

LGC Junior Committee