

YMCA Camp U-Nah-Li-Ya has developed a great Marksmanship Program that teaches archery and firearm safety (both on and off the range), ethics and skill.

More specifically, the following protocols and guidelines are the structure of what our .22 program looks like.

1. .22's are available only to camper enrolled in the Marksmanship Specialty area who have permission from their parent/guardian. It is not available to the general camp or offered as a "choice" or "cabin time" activity.
2. .22's are only used at our .22 range which has a definitive hillside backstop and 6 foot dirt berms on each side.
3. There are only 4 staff trained in the instruction and operation of the .22 program. They are under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. No other staff are able to operate the range.
4. All campers will receive safety training prior to use of the .22s. This consists of range rules and procedures, safety equipment, the ceasefire command, the parts of the rifle, how to load aim and fire.
5. The range and equipment are inspected daily.
6. All participants wear ear and eye protection.
7. Only 4 campers at a time will be at the firing line, the rest of the campers are off the range.
8. Participants shoot from the prone position (laying down). This is the safest and most accurate shooting position. This position also limits the participants range of motion to ensure their point of aim is always downrange. There is no firing from standing or kneeling position.
9. There are 2 staff present at all times. 1 staff is solely dedicated to the 4 campers who's turn it is to use the .22s. Their job is to run the range procedure and monitor/assist campers at the firing line. The other staff is dedicated to the other campers (8 maximum) who are off the range, they will be leading lessons and other activities away from the firing line.
10. We use youth sized, single shot .22 rifles. These are specifically designed for teaching youth. They have no magazine, only one bullet may be loaded at a time.
11. The .22's use .22 long rifle ammunition.
12. The .22s are not stored at the BB Gun Range. They are stored separately in key code gun safe that is in a locked room in the camp office. The ammunition is in a separate locked container that is in the locked room. Only the Executive Director and Marksmanship director have access to the .22s and ammunition, no one else has access.

Range Rules

1. There must be a trained staff person present serving as the Range Safety Officer (RSO).
2. A long whistle blow indicates "cease fire", immediately unload, turn safety on and lay firearm down with the muzzle facing downrange, do not touch the firearm. Stay still until the RSO gives the command to resume.
3. All participants must wear eye protection (ear protection required if .22s are being used).
4. Do not touch rifles or BB guns unless given permission by the RSO.
5. Do not load the rifle or BB gun until given permission by the RSO.

6. All participants must shoot from behind the firing line. All other people at the range must observe from behind the firing line. No one is allowed downrange without permission by the RSO.
7. No one may go downrange unless all firearms are unloaded, chambers open (.22s), and safety on. Rifles should be laid on their left side with actions open and safety on.
8. Participants are to remain at the firing line until all participants are done and the RSO gives the command to retrieve targets.
9. Always keep the muzzle pointed downrange.
10. Always treat the firearm as if it were loaded.
11. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire.
12. If you have a problem, place your firearm down with the muzzle pointing downrange, turn on the safety, and raise your hand to call the RSO.

The Skills Curriculum

This section will break down each skill on the skill progression chart. Campers can achieve one of three levels by completing the required challenges.

Level 1

Demonstrate Knowledge of Safety Rules in Archery – Campers need to show the instructors that they understand the rules in archery.

Demonstrate Knowledge of Safety Rules in Riflery – Campers need to show the instructors that they understand the rules in riflery.

Use Proper Form in Riflery / BB Guns – Campers demonstrate the proper shooting form outlined by the instructors.

Use Proper Form in Archery - Campers demonstrate the proper shooting form outlined by the instructors.

Demonstrate the Ability to Load and Fire a Rifle / BB Gun – campers need to demonstrate their ability to load a round into the chamber, take the firearm off safety and fire.

10 Points with 5 Shots in Archery (15 yard range) - from 15 yards away the camper hits the target and scores a total score over 10 points

Hit a Metal Target with BB Gun 3 times in 5 shots – There are several big aluminum targets located at the BB Gun Range. To achieve this challenge, the camper will attempt to hit one 3 times out of 5 shots. The counselor will need to watch and verify their achievement in this.

3 Shots on Paper Target with .22 - For campers ages 9 and up, with 5 shots they need to hit a paper target at the .22 range 3 times.

Demonstrate the “Cease Fire” Protocol in Archery - A long whistle blow indicates “cease fire”, campers immediately unload the arrow and lay the bow down, they do not touch the bow or arrows. They stay still until the RSO gives the command to resume. This will be practiced early on with each group.

Demonstrate the “Cease Fire” Protocol in Riflery - A long whistle blow indicates “cease fire”, campers immediately unload, turn safety on and lay firearm down with the muzzle facing downrange, they do not touch the firearm. They stay still until the RSO gives the command to resume. This will be practiced early on with each group.

Level 2

15 Points with 5 Shots in Archery (15 Yard Range) - Campers achieve a cumulative score of 15 with 5 arrows fired from 15 yards away.

Identify All Parts of a Bow and Arrow – Campers will be able to identify:

Bow: Grip, Top Limb, Bottom Limb, Arrow Rest, Recurve, String, Nock Point

Arrow: Head, Shaft, Fletching, Guide Fletching, Nock

Identify All Parts of the Rifle or BB Gun – Campers will be able to identify:

Rifle: Butt, Stock, Trigger, Trigger Guard, Forestock, Bolt, Action, Lever (BB Gun Only), Chamber, Barrel, Rear Sight, Front Sight, Muzzle, Bore, Safety

25 Points with 5 Shots with a Rifle – A shooter scores a cumulative score of 25 points on an official camp target with 5 rounds.

Demonstrate Breathing Technique for Riflery / BB Guns – a shooter demonstrates the ability to take in a deep breath, release some air, pause while the body is still, fire a shot, then fully exhale.

String and Unstring a Bow- a camper demonstrates the ability to string and unstring a camp bow.

Hit the Far Metal Target with BB Gun 2 times in 5 Shots – A camper can achieve this by having a counselor watch their 5 shots. If 2 out of 5 hit the far aluminum target they have successfully accomplished this challenge.

Level 3

30 Points with 5 Shots in Archery (15 yard range) - A shooter successfully scores a cumulative score of 30 with 5 arrows.

40 Points with 5 shots with .22 - a shooter scores a cumulative score of 40 with 5 shots.

Hit the Farthest Target 5 Times in a Row with BB's - a camper hits the farthest aluminum target 5 times in a row.

Hit a Poker Chip with a BB – a camper knocks a poker chip off the wire with a BB.

20 Points with 5 Shots in Archery (25 yard range) - The instructor moves a target down to 25 yards. If a camper can score 20 points with 5 shots at this range they have completed the challenge.

Schedule

Monday | 10:45am – 12:00pm (1 hour 15 minutes)

This session is short, it is a quick intro to the program, the range and safety rules. Our goal is to cover the safety rules and get at least one round of shooting in.

Group 1 (Older Kids) – Riflery

Explain Skills Sheet and Levels

Safety Rules of the Range

Ceasefire Command

Parts of the guns

Aiming

Shooting Position, Loading and Firing Demonstration

At least one round of shooting.

Group 2 (Younger Kids) - Archery

Explain Skills Sheet and Levels

Safety Rules of the Range

Ceasefire Command

Parts of the bow and arrow

Stance, Nocking, Firing, Retrieving Demonstration

At least one round of shooting.

Tuesday | 9:05am – 10:45pm (1 hour 40 minutes)

This session is almost 2 hours long, the goal is to complete the same orientation as Monday for each group in the opposite area. They will be able to shoot at least 2 rounds in the activity. They should begin to work through the skills sheet.

Group 1 (Older Kids) - Archery

Explain Skills Sheet and Levels

Safety Rules of the Range

Ceasefire Command

Parts of the bow and arrow

Stance, Nocking, Firing, Retrieving Demonstration

Begin working through skills sheet.

Group 2 (Younger Kids) - Riflery

Explain Skills Sheet and Levels

Safety Rules of the Range

Ceasefire Command

Parts of the guns

Aiming

Shooting Position, Loading and Firing Demonstration

Begin working through skills sheet.

Wednesday | 9:05am – 12:00pm (2 hours and 55 minutes)

This session is almost 3 hours long. The groups will do one activity and then switch halfway through with the other group. Campers should progress as far as possible through the skills sheets today. If it is a 4 Day week, it will be their last chance to move up levels.

Group 1 (Older Kids) - Riflery then Archery

Group 2 (Younger Kids) - Archery then Riflery

Friday | 9:05 – 10:45 (1 hour 40 minutes)

Group 1 (Older Kids) - Archery

Group 2 (Younger Kids) - Riflery