

Welcome to the Archery Range

Jim Bennett, Keith Johnson & Eric Riggert

Archery Director / Asst. Archery Directors

We are pleased to be here again to provide a safe and enjoyable archery experience for your campers. This is our first newsletter, and its purpose is to get some information out that we feel everyone should know. Some of this was put forth at the Adult Training sessions and the rest have been topics we have addressed over the years. Included in this first edition are the rules, short bios on our staff and some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) that have caused misperceptions in the past. Please feel free to engage any of the Rangemaster Key Staff (Green shirts) with questions or discussions. We prefer to have an open discussion rather than lingering issues (usually not based upon full information). Thank you for your attendance and your support over the years.

Yours in scouting,
Jim, Keith and Eric

The Rules *(or how to not get in trouble)*

These rules apply to ALL individuals on the range ... regardless of shirt color or age. Please follow them at all times. If you have a question regarding them please bring that up directly to Coach Jim, Coach Keith or Coach Eric immediately so we can address it.

Range Rules

0. Keep off the range ropes (going along with this, there is only one way in or out of the range and everyone needs to request permission from a rangemaster to enter – period!)
00. No leaking on the Range.
1. Know and obey all range commands.
2. Keep your arrows in your quiver until you are told to shoot.
3. Always wear an armguard
4. Only use the arrows the instructor gave you. Remember what they look like.
5. Always keep your arrows pointed down or towards the target.
6. If you drop an arrow, leave it on the ground.
7. Always walk at the archery range.

Whistle Commands

Remain behind the waiting line until you hear 2 whistles. Archer's should be prepared (already wearing their arm guards) to step to the line and pick up their bows.

Two Blasts- Advance to the shooting line and pick up your bow, straddle the shooting line. DO NOT TOUCH YOUR ARROWS!

One Blast- You may pick up your arrows and shoot. When all arrows are fired, return bow to holder, step to the waiting line and wait.

Three Blasts- Walk forward to retrieve your arrows

Four or more Blasts- STOP SHOOTING - **SAFETY FREEZE**

The Staff *(or "Who are these people?")*

Jim Bennett – Archery Director

Mr. Bennett is a USA Archery certified Community Coach (formerly Level 3) who has been a rangemaster at Saddleback Day Camp for 12 years, assuming the director position in 2003. He has directed over 28 camp and group archery activities outside of day camp and focuses on the community outreach opportunities of archery.

Keith Johnson – Asst. Archery Director

Mr. Johnson is a USA Archery certified Community Coach (formerly Level 3) who has been a rangemaster at Saddleback Day Camp for 13 years, assuming the assistant director position in 2001. He is also the past president of the State Archers of California (SAC) and a member of the USA Archery Regional High Performance Coaching staff. Mr. Johnson has coached numerous competitive archers in addition to providing day camp and group activities focused on archery.

Eric Riggert – Asst. Archery Director

Mr. Riggert is a USA Archery certified Intermediate Instructor (formerly Level 2) who has been a rangemaster at Saddleback Day Camp for 6 years, assuming the assistant director position in 2009.

The Rangemasters (Green Shirts)

The rangemasters on staff (14) consist of 2 USA Intermediate Instructors, 5 USA Archery Basic Instructors and 5 BSA Rangemasters with combined 70+ years of experience on this day camp range alone.

The Youth Volunteers (Orange Shirts)

The youth volunteer staff consists of 64 youth who have completed the BSA Rangemaster course within the last 30 days. Most of these volunteers are working on the range for the second year, third year or beyond. Included in this group are 4 USA Archery Basic Instructors that are certified to run an archery range anywhere in the United States ... except for BSA (where you must be 18). These young adults are the key to our training and safety and we would not be able to put on this program without them. Please let us know how they are doing.

Sean Johnson – Youth Archery Director

Sean is in charge of our youth on the range and is one of the 4 USA Archery Basic Instructors in our youth team. Sean is also an accomplished competition archer who has won numerous tournaments across the country. Sean has been shooting since the age of 8 and started his fascination with archery right here on the Saddleback Day Camp archery range.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)

Why are you so strict about everyone following the rules?

The rules are in place to ensure safety of everyone on the range. We emphasize the rules all week. The campers are more likely to follow them if the rangemasters, key staff, youth volunteers and adult volunteers are all following the same rules.

Where did the 5 year old limitation on siblings come from?

This age was set by consensus of our USA Archery trained staff members to provide a clear break-point where we felt comfortable with the safety concerns. USA Archery has no minimum age requirement, however the younger the shooter the more likely that 1-on-1 attention is required which we are not staffed to accommodate.

Are the ropes really all that important to mind?

The reason for the ropes is to define the safety perimeter for the range. This is a major safety issue and the reason we ask that all entrance and exit take place from one point is to allow for positive control of individuals entering this zone. To ensure safety the rangemaster(s) need to know who is in the zone and who is not.

Why do the boys (and us) have to go through the Flag History every day (and year)?

I try to change up some of the Flag History each year but its primary purpose has nothing to do with the campers learning anything (although they may remember a few things after 5 years of it). The Flag History is our method of bringing the campers to a "relative" calm prior to entering the range. We don't expect classroom quiet, but we do need to ensure that the campers have shifted their focus

from whatever session they just finished and are ready to listen to the archery crew (youth and rangemasters). Over the years we have found this engagement to be the most beneficial and quickest way of achieving the result we need for safety. Anything the adult volunteers can do to help calm the boys before we start is appreciated, but it is an "all or nothing" proposition ... the whole group comes in or it doesn't. We don't let in Webelos while Tigers wait. All campers must be ready to go ... or we engage until they are ready.

Why are Compound Bows not allowed? What personal gear is allowed?

The use of compound bows falls under our primary mandate, safety. Without a special scale, we cannot verify the draw weight of a compound bow. Most archers using compound bows also use arrows with field tips. The combination of unknown draw weights and the use of field tips mean the chance of "blowing" through the targets we use is great. This would result in errant arrows in areas we cannot determine where the arrow will stop. The ONLY personal bows permitted for use on the range are long bows, recurve bows, and a training bow known as a Genesis. We personally inspect all equipment entering the range to ensure they meet our safety guidelines. When you see members of the archery range staff shooting, you will see barebow, recurves and recurves setup for competition. All of which can be verified for draw weights and arrow types being used.

If the camp is about the boys, why are some rangemasters and youth volunteers shooting their personal equipment during the campers' rotations?

A primary objective of the Cub Scout program is discovery. Discovery is why some of the members of the archery staff conduct shooting exhibitions. This action enables us to demonstrate proper shooting form

and also different types of equipment. Over the many years of teaching, archery coaches around the country have found these exhibitions an extremely efficient and valuable technique for teaching archers. As a member of the national high performance staff, Coach Keith encourages specific archers on our staff to "show some technique". We have found that the campers not only enjoy seeing these exhibitions, they try to emulate what they have seen. A couple of the younger archers that have exhibited their skills at camp as youth volunteers or rangemasters got involved in archery at this day camp. It shows that any Cub can go on to be the top ranked archer in the state, a position that one of our youth volunteers currently holds. We also have issues with the last archer or two on the range having the combined attention focused on them as they try (sometimes struggling) to get that last arrow off. That is a lot of pressure for a camper (69+ watching 1), so the exhibition shooting distracts the remainder of the range to give the camper that is struggling time to make his/her best shot. We work hard NOT to be shooting after all the campers are done ... so that the rhythm of the range can continue.

Why can't the Youth Volunteers (orange shirts) that are den chiefs shoot when their den is on the range?

We reserve lunch time as a shooting opportunity for the youth volunteers. The rotation times belong to the campers. Also, for safety reasons we are relying on our youth volunteers that are trained for the archery crew, so we can't have any others forward of the safety line causing confusion.



**Recurve
(Left and Above)**

**Compound
(Not allowed)**