Rifle Shooting Merit Badge Teaching Guide
Revised 1/8/14 to 6 hours (7 hours if 5 day program)

DAY 1:
Lesson I. Introduction to Rifle Safety, Parts, and Operation – 1 ½ hours

Paragraph A. Orientation – 5 minutes
Step 1: Ask Scouts to fill out the Merit Badge Record Card or Council-furnished documentation.

Steps 2-10: Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plans as written, however, distribute the BSA Rifle Shooting merit badge book instead of the NRA Basics of Rifle Shooting book to the Scouts.

Paragraph B. Introduce Lesson – 5 minutes instead of 10 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan *Note that you are only stating the learning objectives for this lesson and not going into detail at this point.

Paragraph C. Rifle Safety – 10 minutes
Steps 1-2: Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Step 3: Teach the NRA's Three Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling.
*Note: Step 3 covers BSA Requirement #2b "Identify and demonstrate the three fundamentals for safe gun handling" - refer Scouts to Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet page 17 "Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling", and use the NRA FIRST Steps C-3.

Teach BSA Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet page 4, requirements 1a and b – 5 minutes
Note: These requirements are not found in the FIRST Steps Rifle Lesson Plan. Teach these requirements prior to continuing with the FIRST Steps Rifle Lesson Plan to paragraph D *Safe Rifle Handling Practical Exercise* listed below.

BSA Requirement 1a:
Explain why BB and pellet air guns must always be treated with the same respect as firearms.
*Refer Scouts to Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet page 26 "Air Rifles."

BSA Requirement 1b:
Describe how you would react if a friend visiting your home asked to see your or your family's firearm(s).
*Refer Scouts to Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet page 18. "Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons."

Paragraph D: Safe Rifle and Handling Practical Exercise – 15 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan
*Note: This covers BSA Requirement 2b "*Identify and demonstrate the three fundamental rules for safe gun handling.*" *Refer Scouts to Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet page 17 "Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling."

Paragraph E: Rifle Parts: Major components – 5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan Steps 1-3 however, teach as follows:
BSA Requirement 2a – *Identify the three main parts of a rifle and tell how they function.*
*Refer Scouts to Rifle Shooting Merit Badge pamphlet page 8 and use the diagram.

Paragraph F: Rifle Parts – 10 minutes instead of 15 minutes
Teach as written in the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan

*Refer Scouts to Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet page 9 diagram
Paragraph G: -Skip

Paragraph H: Rifle Operation – 5 minutes
Steps 1: loading, 2: unloading – Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan

Paragraph I: Rifle Operation Practical Exercise – 15 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan

Paragraph J: Conclude Lesson – 5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan

If time allows, have Scouts shoot 5 Rounds focusing on safety.

DAY 2
Lesson II. Introduction to Ammunition and the Fundamentals of Rifle Shooting – 1 ½ hrs.

Paragraph A: Introduce Lesson – 5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan – keep it brief

Paragraph B: Rifle Ammunition – 5 minutes
1. Ammunition compatibility
*Note this covers BSA Requirement 2c -*Identify the two types of cartridges, their parts and how they function.*
Refer Scouts to Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet pages 33-34, "Ammunition."

2. Cartridge malfunction – 15 minutes
*Note this covers BSA Requirement 2d –*Explain to your counselor what a misfire, hangire, and squib fire are, and explain the procedures to follow in response to each.*
Refer Scouts to Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet page 35, "Malfunctions."

Paragraph C: Determining the Dominate Eye – 10 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan
*Reference Rifle shooting merit badge pamphlet, page 36-37

Paragraph D: Shooting Position – 15 minutes
Follow Steps a and b

Paragraph E: Fundamentals of Firing a Shot – 25 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan
*Note this covers BSA Requirement 2e –*Identify and demonstrate the five fundamentals of shooting a rifle safely.* Reference Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet pages 36-41 "Rifle Shooting Fundamentals".

Follow up shooting: Scouts shoot for 15 minutes focusing on safety – can shoot longer if time allows

Paragraph F: Conclude Lesson – 5 minutes

DAY 3
Lesson III. Introduction to Rifle Shooting From the Benchrest Position – 1 ½ hrs.

Paragraph A: Introduce Lesson – 5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan

Paragraph B: Range Safety and Shooting Facility Orientation
Teach Steps 1-4 as written in the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan

Paragraph C: Rules for Safe Shooting – 10 minutes
*Note this covers BSA Requirement 2f –*Identify and explain each rule for safe shooting.*
And BSA Requirement 1c – *Explain the need for and use and types of eye and hearing protection.*
Reference Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet pages 16-18 "Gun Safety."

Paragraph D: Preparation for Shooting Exercise – 10 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Paragraph E: Shooting from the Benchrest Position – 45 minutes
*Note this covers BSA Requirement 2g- *Demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to safely shoot a rifle from the benchrest position or supported prone position while using the five fundamentals of rifle shooting.*
Reference Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet pages 36-41, "Rifle Shooting Fundamentals," and pages 51-54 "Firing Your First Shots."

NOTE: Follow BSA Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet page 5, requirements 2k and 2l. The requirements are listed along with references to teach from. **<u>These requirements are not found in the FIRST Steps Rifle Lesson Plans.</u>** Teach these requirements prior to continuing with the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan, Paragraphs F and G.

BSA Requirement 2k
Using a .22 caliber rimfire rifle and shooting from a benchrest or supported prone position at 50 feet, fire five groups (3 shots per group) that can be covered by a quarter. Using these targets, explain how to adjust sights to zero a rifle.

BSA Requirement 2L
Adjust sights to center the group on the target and fire five groups (five shots per group). According to the target used, each shot in the group must meet the following score: (1) A-32 targets – 9; (2) A-17 or TQ-1 targets – 7; (3) A-36 targets – 5.

Paragraph F: Review of Shooting Practice – 5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan

Paragraph G: Conclude Lesson – 5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

*Note: If a Scout is having difficulty with shooting for score, suggest they return during open shooting so that you can continue to coach them.

DAY 4
Lesson IV. Introduction to Rifle Cleaning Storage, and Training Opportunities – 1 ½ hrs.

Paragraph A: Introduce Lesson – 5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan.

Paragraph B: Cleaning a Rifle – 40 minutes
Follow NRA FIRST Steps lesson Plan 1-3 as written
*Note this covers BSA Requirement 2h –*Identify the basic safety rules for cleaning a rifle, and identify the materials needed.*
Reference Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet page 30, "Cleaning Your Rifle."

Teach Step 4 - Practical Exercise as written below.
*Note this covers BSA Requirement 2i – *Demonstrate how to clean a rifle properly and safely.*
Reference Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet pages 30-31 "Steps in Cleaning."

Paragraph C: Hygienic Guidelines Following Exposure to Airborne Particulate Lead or Cleaning Solvent Residue – 5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan
*Note this covers BSA Requirement 1h –*Explain to your counselor the proper hygienic guidelines used in shooting.*
Reference Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet page 55, "Shooting Hygiene."

Paragraph D: Storing a Rifle – 5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plan

Teach Merit Badge requirement 2j – *Discuss what points you would consider in selecting a rifle* – 5 minutes
*Reference Rifle Shooting Merit Badge pamphlet pages 21-25, "Choosing a Rifle."
Note: **<u>This requirement is not found in the FIRST Steps Lesson Plan</u>**. Teach this requirement prior to continuing the FIRST Steps Rifle Lesson Plan Paragraph E

Paragraph E: The "Next Step": Additional Rifle Shooting Activities – 5 minutes
Follow the NRA FIRST Steps Lesson Plans

Note: Teach Merit Badge Requirements 1d through f and 1h and i - listed on page 4 of the BSA Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet. – 20 minutes
(The requirements are listed below along with references to teach from. **<u>These requirements are not found in the NRA FIRST Steps Rifle Lesson Plan.</u>**

BSA Requirement 1d
Give the main points of the laws for owning and using guns in your community and state.
*Consult local and state law enforcement for this information

BSA Requirement 1e
Explain how hunting is related to the wise use of renewable wildlife resources
*Reference Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet pages 82-83, "Conservation and Hunting."

BSA Requirement 1f
Obtain a copy of the hunting laws for your state. Explain the main points of hunting laws in your state and give any special laws on the use of guns and ammunition.
*Reference Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet pages 83-84

BSA Requirement 1g
Identify and explain how you can join or be part of shooting sports activities.
*Reference Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet pages 57-59, “Olympic Games and Shooting.”

BSA Requirement 1i
Give your counselor a list of sources that you could contact for information on firearms and uses.
Reference Rifle Shooting merit badge pamphlet pages 95-96, “Shotgun Shooting Resources.”

Paragraph F –Conclude Lesson – 5 minutes
Follow FIRST Steps Lesson Plan

DAY 5 – as time allows

Continue qualification shooting as needed for the merit badge. If a Scout has met their shooting qualification for the merit badge, continue shooting to qualify for the Winchester/NRA Qualification Program awards.