

**Lafayette Gun Club of Virginia, Inc.
301 Dare Road,
Grafton, VA 23692**

Greetings,

It's great to hear that your Troop is interested in learning more about shooting sports at the Lafayette Gun Club. Below are a few quick highlights about our program with additional details attached.

The goal of the Lafayette Gun Club (LGC) Junior program is to work with and promote youth training and development around shooting sports. We have partnered with the Boy Scouts of America for several years, teaching and training our future leaders and offering the opportunity to earn shooting related merit badges. We truly hope that your experience at LGC is a great one.

Earning merit badges is just the beginning of the opportunities for juniors at LGC. We also offer the challenge of the NRA Marksmanship Program, rifle on Friday evenings, and shotgun on Saturday mornings. We also sponsor a nationally rated junior smallbore and air competition team as well. All of our junior programs are open to the public. Parents do not have to be LGC members for their children to participate. Feel free to ask for information regarding these programs.

In order to make your stay more successful, we have created some specific guidelines and rules that we must follow in order to allow you to enjoy your time and keep everyone safe. To that end, each non-LGC member attending must complete the attached Visitor Safety Briefing with guardians/parents signing for their scouts.

I ask the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) to form one patrol for Rifle Merit Badge and another for Shotgun Merit Badge, each with a designated patrol leader. Each patrol will need relays of up to 5 scouts. Scouts working on Merit Badges should be planned to fire first with scouts participating for recreational purposes firing as time allows.

After you've had a chance to read over the following details and complete the requested information sheet, please email to me. I'll be happy to answer any questions and discuss how to tailor a visit to suite your Troop's interests. We can also schedule a time to meet at LGC prior to your campout to familiarize you with the club and camping area.

YIS,

Junior Committee Boy Scout Coordinator
Lafayette Gun Club

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- 1) We must follow all safety rules. When on the active ranges, the Range Safety Officer (RSO) is in charge. Please respond respectfully to any inquiries or directions given by the RSO. Failure to do so may result in being asked to leave the property.
- 2) We will not cover all merit badge requirements during the weekend at LGC. Scouts are encouraged to print and bring the appropriate merit badge workbooks and complete recommended prerequisites. We will cover requirements 1 a-c and g-i, and all of requirement 2 for both merit badges. Prerequisites 1 d, e, and f.
- 3) A safety briefing is required before any scout or adult leader is allowed on the firing line - it includes two short NRA training films (“Fundamentals of Firearm Safety” and the “Fundamentals of Marksmanship”). This briefing will be combined with other merit badge requirement and will occur Friday night beginning at approximately 8 P.M.
- 4) Scouts and Scouters must have hearing and eye protection on at anytime they are under the covered area of the rifle range or on the Shotgun forward area. We have eye and ear protection available to use and encourage scouts to bring their own eye protection of available as our tend to get scratched with use.
- 5) LGC will provide .22 caliber rifles and ammunition for the Rifle Merit Badge, and 12 and 20 gauge shotguns for Scouts to use. Troops must provide their own shotgun ammunition size 8 or 9 birdshot win 20 gauge recommended, especially for smaller scouts. Non-LGC owned firearms are strongly discouraged from use during the formal Merit Badge shooting activities.
- 6) There is a \$5.00 per Scout charge for use of the club’s shooting ranges and camp grounds. This includes the use of equipment and all rifle ammunition and shotgun clays. As noted above, troops must bring their own shotgun shells. Camping is included at no cost to the troop.
- 7) The Troop will be provided a pass that allows access to the property and facilities. Rest Rooms are available in the indoor range and the Harris Training Facility. We ask that you monitor scout use of the rest rooms and ensure they are kept clean.
- 8) When not participating in or viewing current shooting sports, scout should remain in the camping area under adult supervision. Scouts may not hang out in the clubhouse.
- 9) Do not pick up and throw rocks at any time. There are lots of vehicles and damage may result.
- 10) Shooting activities will occur Saturday morning from 8 to 11 A.M. For safety reasons a ask for a 1-to-6 ratio of adult Scout leaders to youth shooters on the rifle firing line. A 1-to-1 ratio on the Shotgun firing line is required so adults can hand shells to shooters to avoid having scouts bending over to pick up their next shell. Rifle and Shotgun shooting will be at the same time. Please plan for adult support accordingly. Adults do not need to camp to support the shooting activities on Saturday morning.

11) Above all, please remember that while this is a scout led organization, the shooting sports have an inherent danger if dealt with in a neglectful manner. For the safety of both Scouts and LGC membership, Adults must supervise youth while at LGC. There are no exceptions to this rule.

RIFLE AND SHOTGUN RANGE INFORMATION:

- 1) Follow all range commands as given.
- 2) Always wear hearing and eye protection on when under the rifle range roof or in the shotgun forward area.
- 3) Never handle a firearm unless told to do so.
- 4) Anyone may call a “cease fire” for any safety issues.
- 5) Load only when told to do so.
- 6) Follow range commands and lights at all times.
- 7) Be responsible for each shot. Shoot at designated targets only. Intentionally shooting range equipment or facilities will result in departure from the property and financial liability for the repairs.
- 8) Never cross the firing line unless range commands have specifically given permission to do so.

ADDITIONAL SHOTGUN RANGE INFORMATION:

- 1) Scouts may continue using the shotgun range after the 8-11 scheduled practice time but they must participate in accordance with normal range rules for guests. Specifically, Scouts must pay an additional \$5 fee per round and will compete with any Club members waiting to shoot for priority.
- 2) When using the shotgun range, the Troop needs to bring the proper ammo (**only shot sizes 8, & 9 may be used**). Carrying shells in your pockets or setting a box of shells on the ground is not permitted. An inexpensive carpenter's apron (the kind used to carry nails) works fine and is available at Home Depot or Lowes for around \$2 each. For the younger or inexperienced scouts, an adult is required to hold the live shells and issue one shell at a time to the designated shooter.

CAMPING INFORMATION:

- 1) The Club owns about 23 acres with more than an acre of wooded area next to the lake set aside for camping and family picnics.
- 2) We do ask Troops to fully embrace the BSA principles of "leave no trace" and leave the camping area as they found it.

- 3) Open fires are allowed (contingent to any County imposed fire bans during dry weather) in the designated fire ring only. Please do not have fires outside the ring. You must have proper Fire Plan and extinguishing equipment available (water, sand, extinguisher).
- 4) Adults must supervise teaching of Fireman Chit and Totem Chit if conducted while at LGC.
- 5) As mentioned above there is a lake on Club property and the Troop is welcome to fish and canoe; however, there is no swimming. Also, when fishing anyone 16 or older must comply with the license requirements of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (catch and release is encouraged). When canoeing, all "BSA Safety Afloat" requirements apply. The club has no fishing, boating, or canoeing equipment.
- 6) Troops are encouraged to do a simple service project as a way for the boys to express their appreciation for use of the Club's facilities. Let me know if you are interested, and we can develop options.