



# OUTDOOR PATCHES



# ACHIEVEMENT WORKBOOK SHOTGUN

## REMEMBER: SAFETY FIRST!

This workbook will go through the basics of a shotgun, types of shotguns, shooting techniques, and safety for responsible shotgun use. By completing these three steps, you can earn your Outdoor Achievement Patch for shotgun use:

- 1 Learn the different types of shotguns.
- 2 Learn rifle safety rules and shooting techniques.
- 3 Email or mail your completed quiz to receive your Outdoor Achievement Patch.

### TYPES OF SHOTGUNS



Break Open

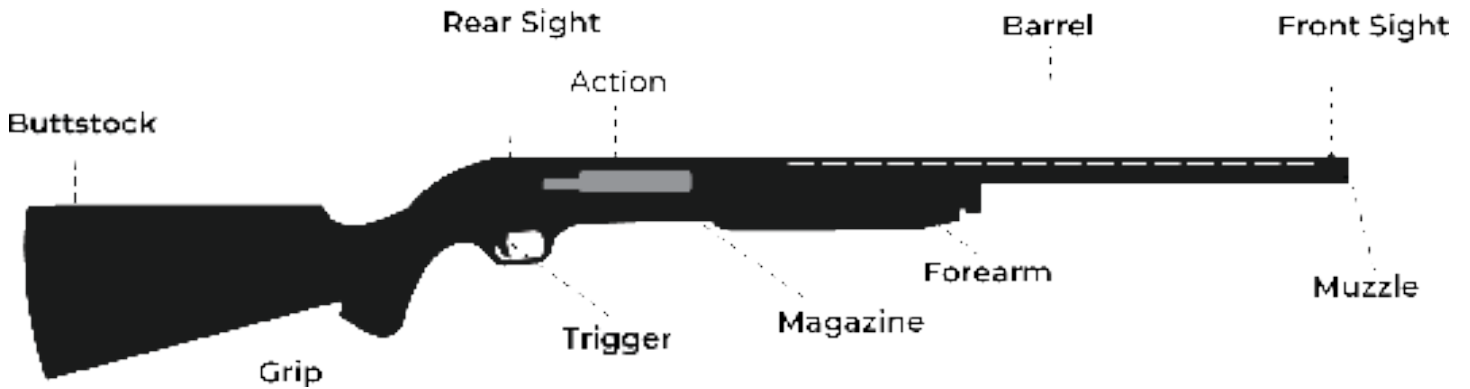


Pump Action

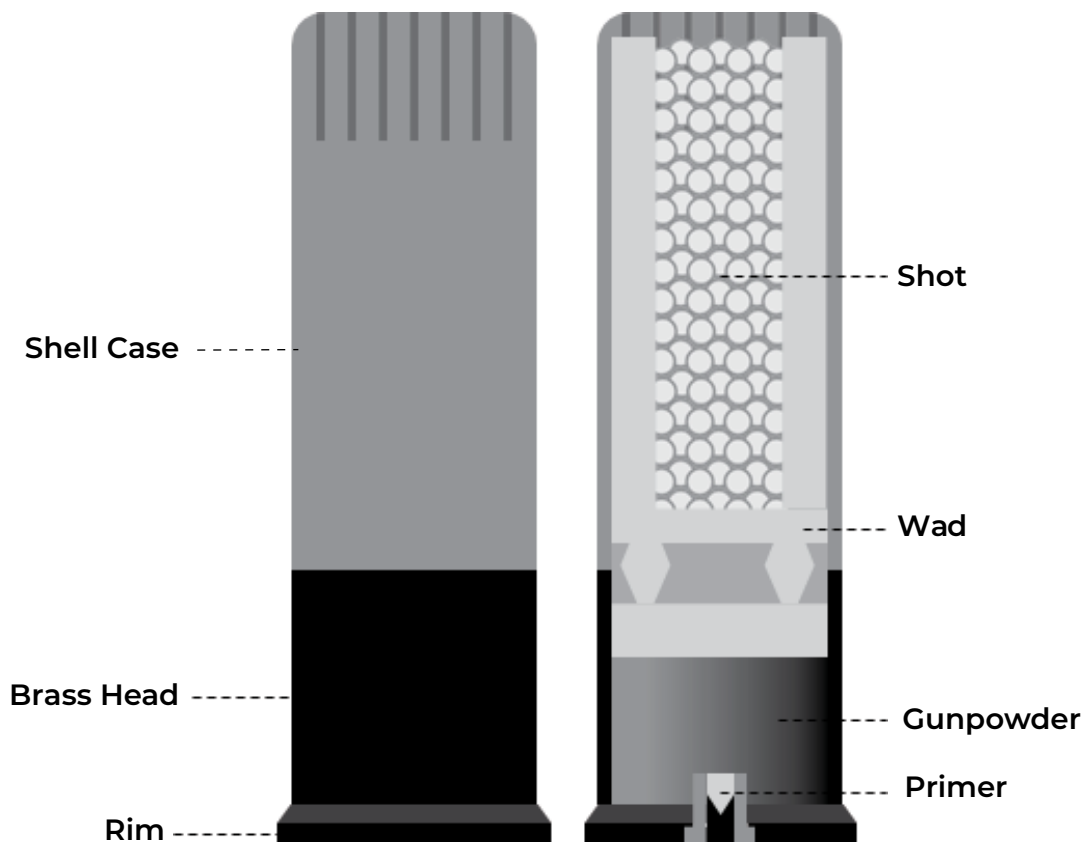


Semi-Automatic

# DIAGRAM OF A RIFLE



# DIAGRAM OF A RIFLE CARTRIDGE



Ensure you use the correct shot-shell for the specific gauge shotgun you are using.

# SHOTGUN SAFETY RULES

- 1 Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- 2 Always keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot.
- 3 Be sure of your target and what's beyond it.
- 4 Firearms should always be unloaded when not actually in use.
- 5 Don't rely on the firearm's safety.
- 6 Use correct ammunition.
- 7 Always wear eye and ear protection when shooting.
- 8 Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before shooting.
- 9 If your firearm fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, handle with care.
- 10 Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of the firearm you are using.
- 11 Clean firearms regularly.

## STORAGE

Firearms should always be locked and stored so they are inaccessible to children or others who should not have access to them.

There are various types of locks and firearm safes for long guns. While they may function in different ways, they all prevent the firearm from being fired, but only when used properly.

# SHOTGUN SHOOTING FUNDAMENTALS

## 1 Safely carry your firearm

It is very important to carry any firearm safely while sport shooting or hunting. Three basic rules apply:

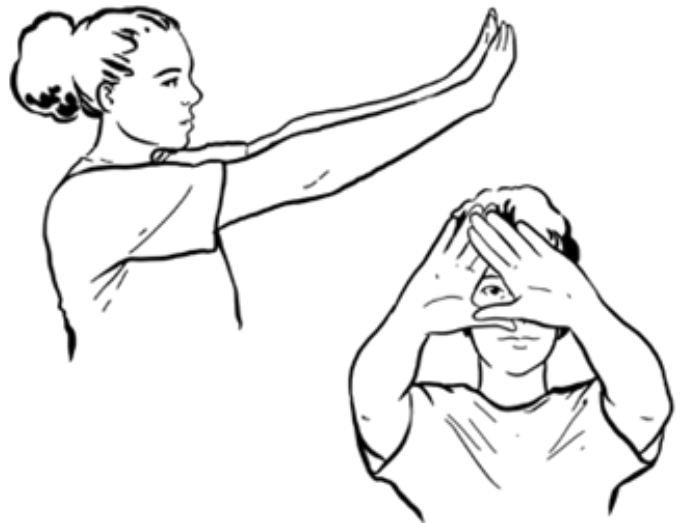
- Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and the barrel under control.
- Keep the safety in the “on” position while carrying a firearm. Only change the position of the firearm’s safety to “fire” when you are ready to shoot.
- Always keep your finger outside the trigger guard and off the trigger.



## 2 Find your dominant eye

You need to aim your rifle with your dominant eye for accurate shooting. Your dominant eye is typically the same as your dominant hand. You will need to find your dominant eye before shooting your rifle. To determine your dominant eye:

- Make a triangular shape with your hands by touching your thumbs and forefingers together.
- Stretch out your arms directly in front of you.



**2****Find your dominant eye (*continued*)**

- Find a distant object and focus on it while looking through the triangular opening.
- While keeping both eyes open, slowly pull in your hands towards your face. Stay focused on the object through the opening; the opening will come to your dominant eye naturally.

Close one eye at a time, the weaker eye will only see the back of your hand; the dominant eye will stay focused on the object. Good vision is the foundation for good shooting and hunting safety, so make sure you get a routine eye exam!

**3****Use correct shotshell**

A shotgun shot or pellet is not the same as a rifle bullet. The gauge of the shotgun and choke of the barrel can affect the shotgun's effective range. Be sure to use the correct gauge and shot for the type of shooting or hunting you want to do. For example, a shotgun shell with #9 shot holds more shot/pellets than a shotgun shell packed with #1 shot.

**4****Shouldering a shotgun**

When you bring the shotgun to your shoulder, the stock should be brought to your cheek first and then back to your shoulder.

A common error is lowering the head and cheek to the stock, instead of bringing the stock all the way up to the cheek. When done properly, with your head naturally erect, the gun butt always should come to the same spot on your shoulder.



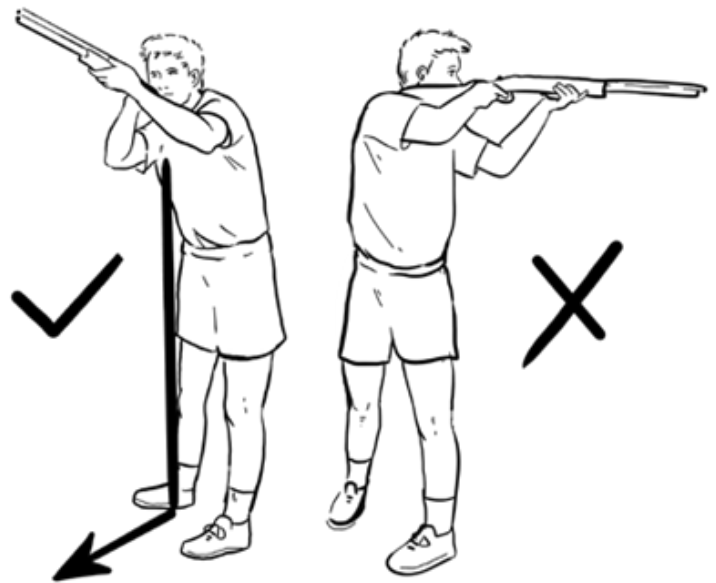
## SHOTGUN SHOOTING FUNDAMENTALS (CONTINUED)

### 5 Pointing a shotgun

Because targets usually appear suddenly and move quickly, there's no time to "aim" a shotgun. It's designed to be pointed, with the eye sighting along the top of the barrel or rib.

The sight is usually a bead on the front of the gun. Your dominant eye must be in line with the barrel, so it's important to position your head properly on the stock.

When you bring the gun to your face, the stock should fit snugly against your cheek with your dominant eye on that side above the centerline of the gun. If you can't assume that position comfortably, you may need to adjust the "gun fit."



## SHOTGUN SHOOTING POSITIONS

### 1 Standing shooting stance

Lean forward. Weld your cheek to the stock of the gun. Pull the buttstock firmly into your shoulder. Flex your knees with feet shoulder width apart. Keep your elbows tucked in. Hold the forearm of the gun firmly.



## SHOTGUN SHOOTING POSITIONS (CONTINUED)

### 2 Shooting position

Because targets can appear suddenly and move quickly, there's not necessarily time to "aim" a shotgun. It's designed to be pointed at a target, with the eye sighting along the top of the rib or barrel.

A shotgun's sight is usually a simple bead on the front of the barrel. Your eye must be in line with the barrel, so it's important to position your head properly on the buttstock.

When you bring the gun to your face, the stock should fit snugly against your cheek with your eye on that side above the centerline of the gun. If you can't assume that position comfortably, you may need to adjust the "gun fit."



### 3 Pulling the trigger

Unlike rifle firing, quick trigger action is important when hunting with a shotgun. To fire, quickly snap the trigger with a firm motion, keeping a firm grip on the shotgun while pulling the stock rearward.

Because the trigger is pulled quickly and the body and gun are typically in motion, breath control isn't necessary.

Continue the shotgun's swing as you pull the trigger. Stopping the swing as you shoot will cause you to hit behind a moving target.



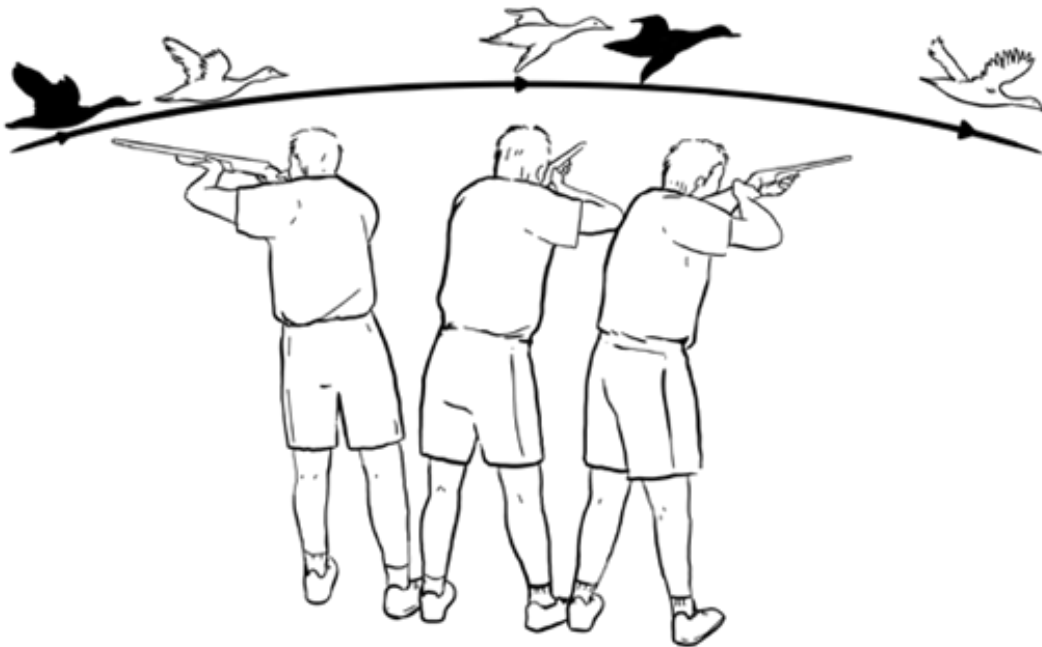
## SHOTGUN SHOOTING POSITIONS (CONTINUED)

### 4 Leading targets - swing-through method

The two most common methods of leading targets at long distances are swing-through and sustained lead.

Swing-through is the best technique for the beginner student.

Point your shotgun at a moving target and swing with it. Increase the speed of the gun so that the muzzle passes the target, and then fire. In other words, literally “swing through” the target and fire at a blank space in front of the target.



### 5 Leading targets - sustained lead

The sustained lead position is more challenging because it requires more experience.

First, estimate the length of the lead necessary to hit the target, and maintain that lead as you swing with the target, fire, and continue the swing. With practice this is a very effective method.

# QUIZ

## Complete the quiz to receive your patch:

- 1** When picking up a shotgun you should always point the muzzle in a safe direction.

True

False
- 2** Firearms should always be loaded and ready for any situation.

True

False
- 3** You should check the barrel of your shotgun before shooting to make sure it's clear of obstructions.

True

False
- 4** When shooting a shotgun your cheek should be welded to the buttstock.

True

False
- 5** You should always have your finger on the trigger when holding or carrying a firearm.

True

False
- 6** The swing-through method is the best technique for a beginner.

True

False
- 7** Firearms should always be locked and stored away when not in use.

True

False
- 8** You should use your dominant eye to aim a shotgun.

True

False
- 9** A shotgun's sight is usually a simple bead on the front of the barrel.

True

False
- 10** You should clean your gun regularly.

True

False

# REVIEW

## Complete the checklist:

To receive your Outdoor Achievement Patch for safe shotgun use, complete and check off the following requirements:

Complete a [Hunter Education Certification](#) course and submit a digital photo of your hunter safety card to [GoOutside@nc.gov](mailto:GoOutside@nc.gov)

Read the Achievement Workbook (Shotgun) and complete the quiz.

Watch the [Shotgun and Rifle Safety](#) video.

Submit digital photos of the patch recipient safely using a shotgun to [GoOutside@nc.gov](mailto:GoOutside@nc.gov)

## Patch recipient information:

Name of Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent/Guardian:

Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you give us permission to use your submitted photos for our social media, print materials and/or website?

Yes                      No

Our Patch Program Leaderboard tracks the number of patches each individual has earned. Do you give permission for the recipient's name (first name, last initial) to be added to the leaderboard?

Yes                      No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## SUBMIT YOUR QUIZ

Submit the required digital photos and a copy of your completed workbook. If you printed out and completed your workbook by hand, you can mail it to the address below.

**Email**

[GoOutside@nc.gov](mailto:GoOutside@nc.gov)

**Mail**

N.C. Youth Outdoor Engagement Commission  
1715 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1715