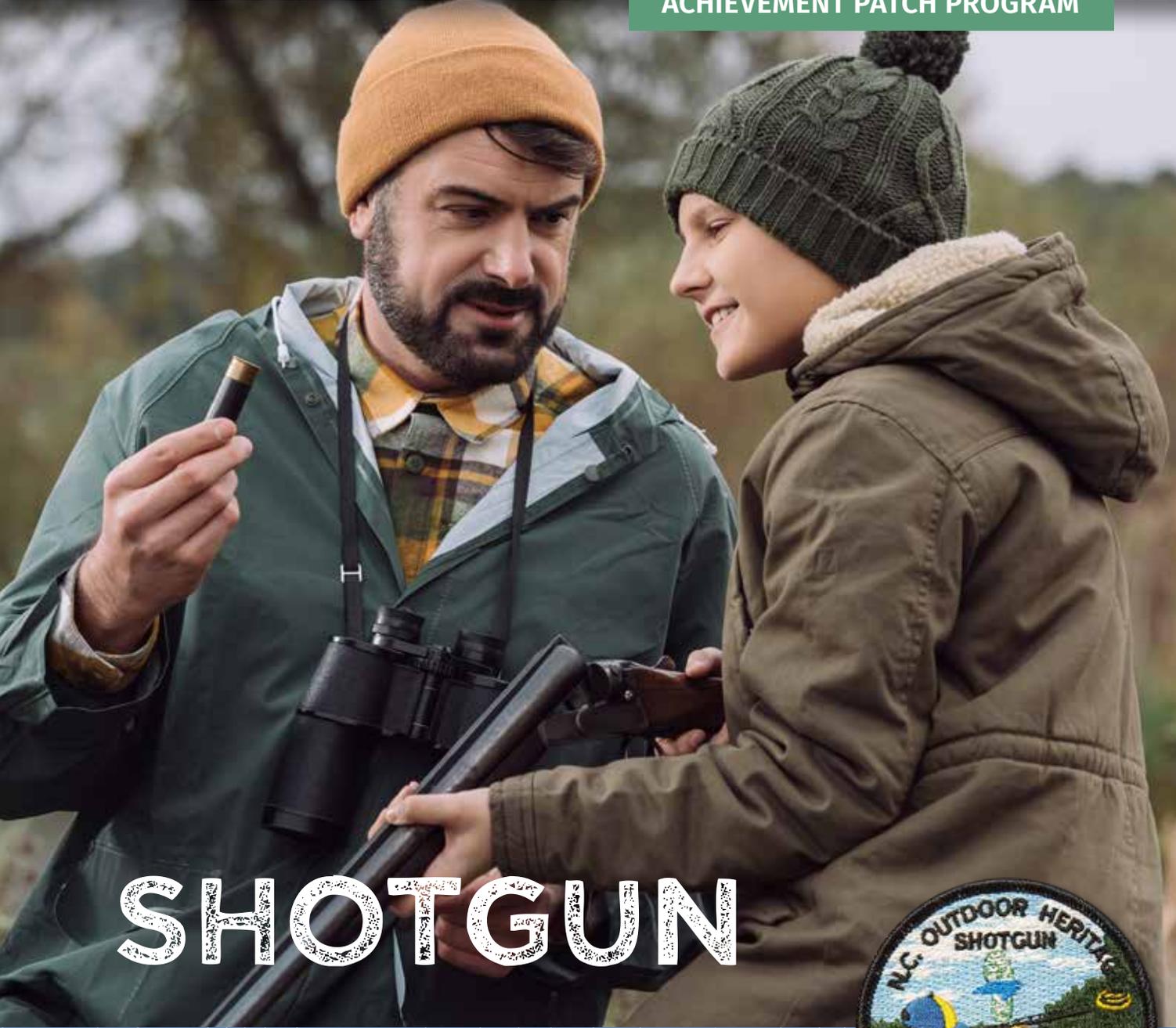


ACHIEVEMENT PATCH PROGRAM



SHOTGUN

North Carolina Hunter Safety Workbook



This training program is developed to teach the basics of shotguns and shotgun shooting safety. Complete this workbook to become a certified member.

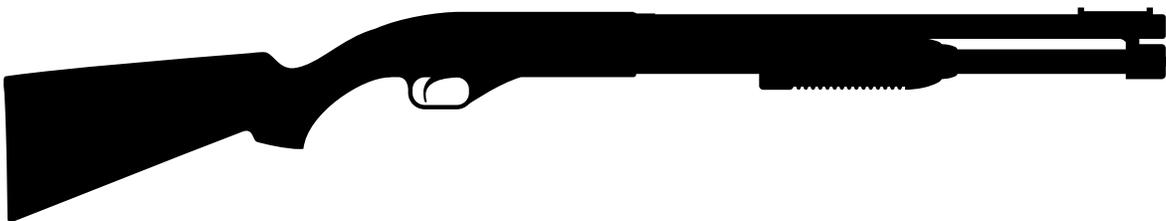
This workbook will go through the basics of shotguns, types shotguns, how to use them, and safety for responsible hunting practices. The topics included are: Equipment, Safety Rules, Shooting techniques, and Course Review. Complete these three steps, and you can receive an official North Carolina shotgun patch and certification.

- 1 Learn types of shotguns.
- 2 Learn shotgun safety rules and shooting techniques.
- 3 Mail or email the completed review page of this workbook to receive your North Carolina Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council Achievement Patch and course completion document.

Types of Shotguns



Break Open / Over & Under

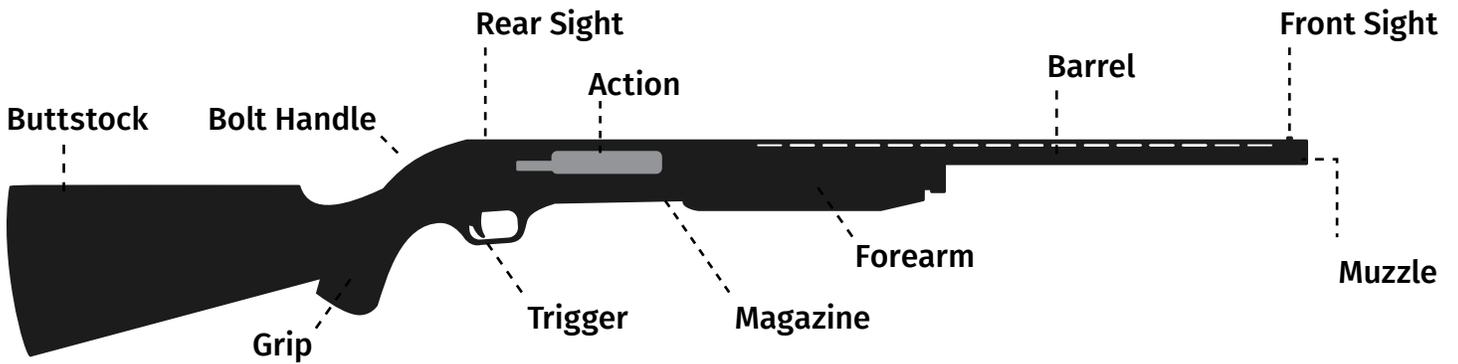


Pump Action



Self-Loading

Diagram of a Shotgun



Uses of a Shotgun

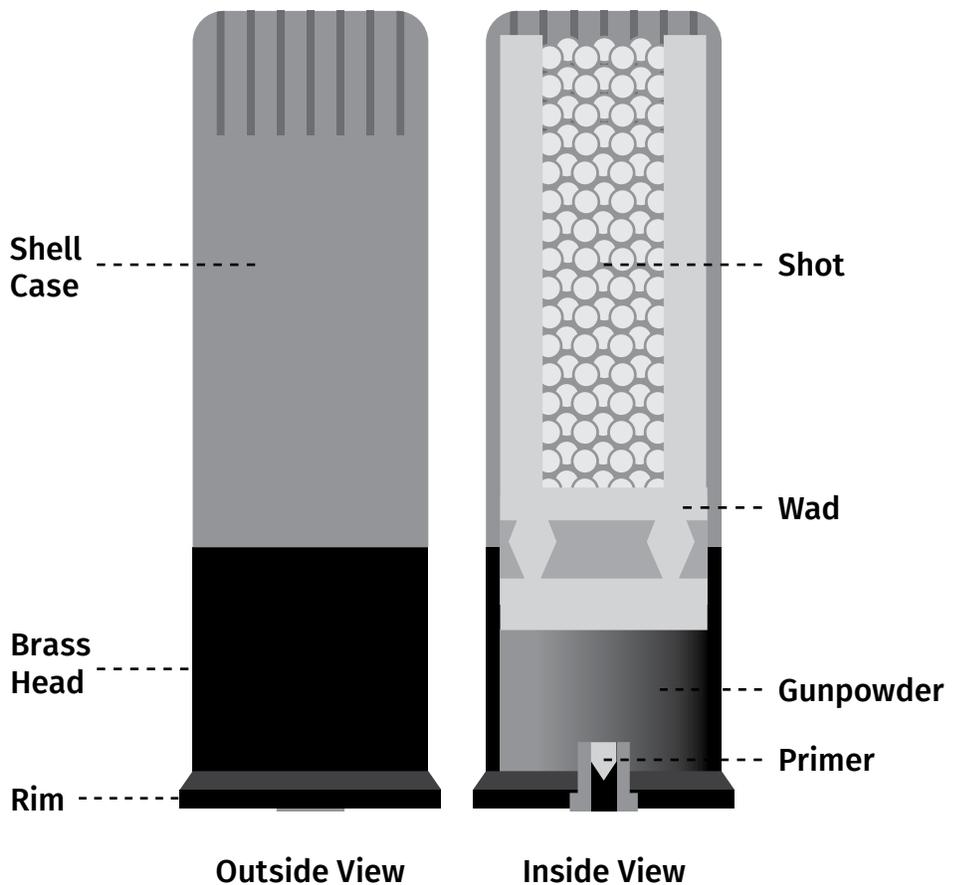
- Recreational
- Competition
- Hunting
- Personal Protection
- Collecting

Common Gauges

- 12 Gauge
- 20 Gauge
- 28 Gauge
- 410 Bore

Ensure you use the correct shot-shell for the specific gauge shotgun you are shooting!
Note: 20 Gauge shot-shells are always yellow.

Diagram of a Shotgun Shell



Shotgun Safety Rules – Follow At All Times

- 1 Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
- 2 Always keep 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 gun'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 gun 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 guns regularly.
- 12 Never use alcohol or drugs when handling your firearm.

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 gun safes for long guns. While they may function in different ways, they all prevent the gun from being fired, but only when used properly.

SAFETY FIRST!

Shotgun Shooting Fundamentals

1 Safely Carry Your Firearm

It is very important to carry your shotgun safely while 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 gun’s safety to “fire” when you are ready to shoot.

Always keep your finger outside the trigger guard and off the trigger.



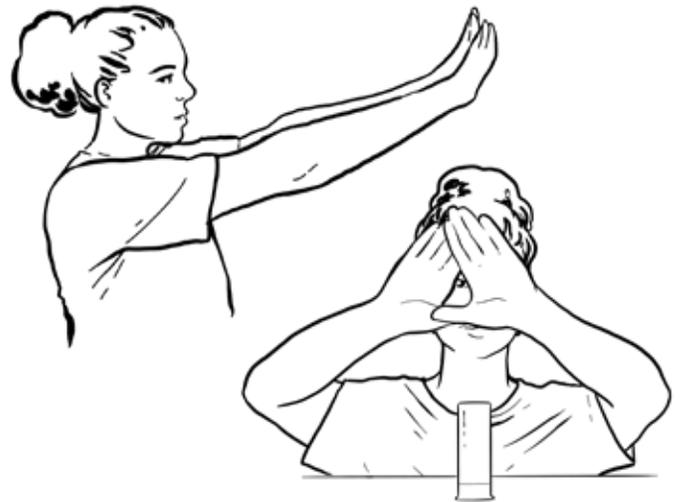
2 Find Your Dominant Eye

You need to aim your shotgun with your dominant eye for accurate shooting. Your dominant eye is the same as your dominant hand, but not always. You will need to find your dominant eye before shooting your shotgun.

How to determine your dominant eye:

- Make a triangular shape with your hands by opening with your thumbs and forefingers.
- Stretch out your arms directly in front of you.
- 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, while staying 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; your dominant eye will stay focused on the object. Good vision is the foundation for good shooting and hunting safety. You should also get a routine eye exam.



3 Use Correct Ammunition

A shotgun shot or pellet is not the same as a rifle bullet. The gauge of the shotgun and choke of the gun’s 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.

Shotgun Shooting Fundamentals *Continued*

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.

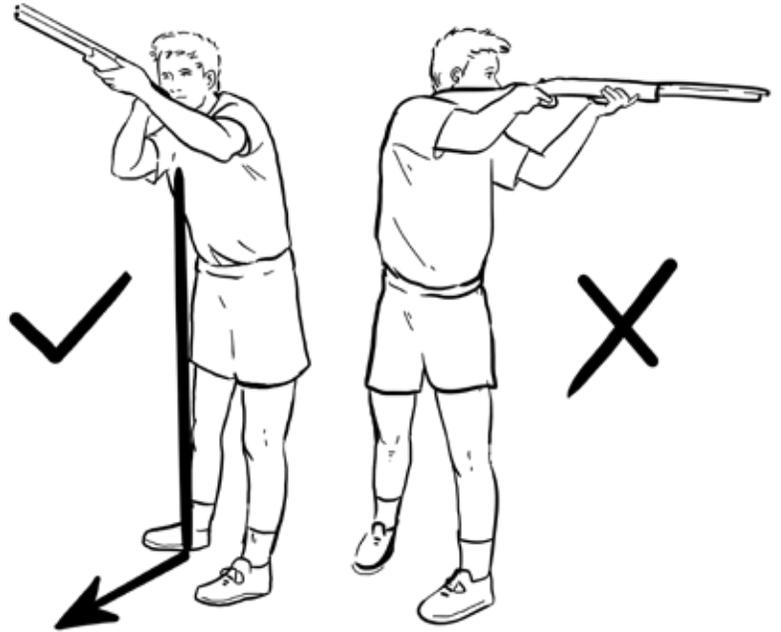


5 Pointing a Shotgun

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 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 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.



2 Kneeling

Kneeling can provide good stability for shotgun shooters. A steadier result comes from your arm supported on your knee that is anchored to the ground. This position is very stable, and can give you better clearance from lower or medium-height obstacles.



3 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."



Shotgun Shooting Positions *Continued*

4 Pulling the Trigger

Unlike rifle firing, quick trigger action is important when hunting with a shotgun. To fire, quickly slap 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.

4 Leading Targets – Swing-through Method

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

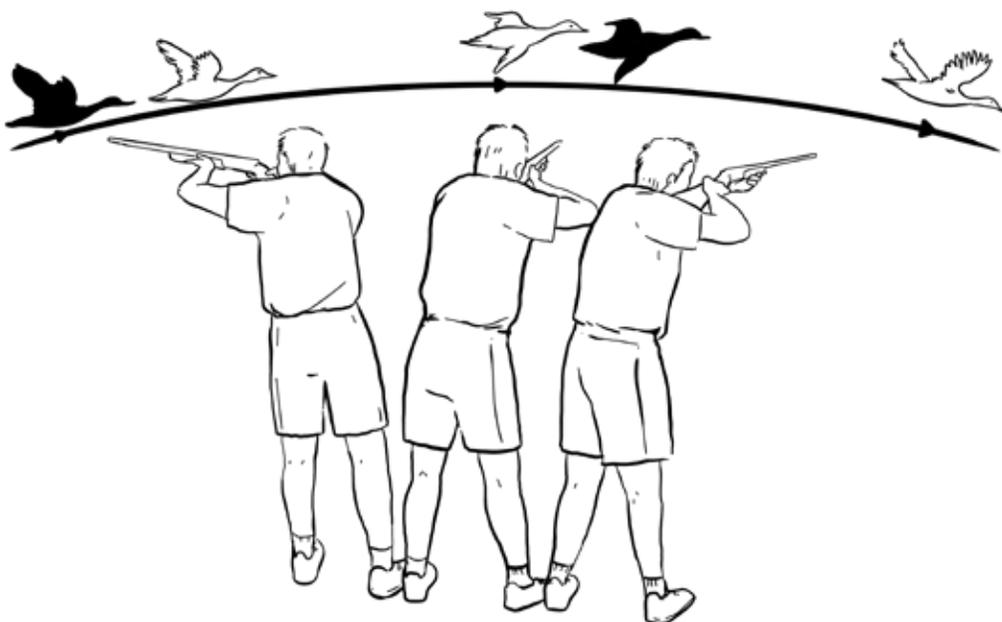
Swing-through is the best technique for the beginner student.

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.



Let's Review – Take the Quiz, Get that Shotgun 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 your shotgun.

True

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

True

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

True

False
- 8** One of the many uses for a shotgun is hunting game fowl.

True

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

True

False
- 10** Slap your shotgun's trigger with a quick and firm motion, keeping a firm grip on the shotgun while pulling the stock rearward.

True

False

Review what you've learned

**Complete this review,
and mail or email it to
us to receive your
official North Carolina
Outdoor Heritage Shotgun
Achievement Patch!**



Let's Review – Take the Quiz, Get that Shotgun Patch *Continued*

I have completed all of the following requirements (check off as you complete them):

- Pass the North Carolina Hunter Safety Course. (Please submit a picture of your card or certificate showing you passed.)
- Read and complete the quiz in this North Carolina Hunter Safety Workbook.
- Submit pictures of patch recipient using a shotgun.

By signing this page, I confirm that I have learned the safe way to shoot a shotgun. And I am ready to receive my patch. (Simply fill out this form, and mail or email it to the North Carolina Outdoor Advisory Council.)

Patch Recipient's Information

Name of Recipient: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that this application was completed with true and accurate information. Additionally, all components to achieve the patch have been completed and all necessary documentation or pictures are included.

Signature of Instructor or Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____

Please return this completed workbook along with any additional supporting documentation that you would like included to:

By Mail:

North Carolina Outdoor
Heritage Advisory Council
1715 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1715

By Email:

Email a PDF or photo
of this page to
info@ncoutdoorheritage.org

SHOTGUN

