

Frequently Asked Questions



West Virginia Archery in the Schools Program

(Updated September 2020)

General Information:

Where can I find information on the program?

Information about National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP®) can be found at <http://www.naspschools.org/>. Information on the WV Archery in the Schools (AIS) Program is available on our website at: www.wvdnr.gov/archery, or by contacting the Program Coordinator, Kayla Donathan at Kayla.M.Donathan@wv.gov or (304) 558-2771 extension 51950.

What is the WV Archery in the School Program benefits?

The program teaches a life skill – something students can use beyond the classroom and possibly into adulthood. The program has no limiting factors (i.e., designed for all ages, sexes, and abilities), and is especially beneficial to non-athletic types who might not otherwise compete in scholastic athletic programs.

What grades of children can participate in the WV Archery in the Schools Program?

The WV Archery in the Schools Program is available to children in grades 4 – 12.

What do I need to do to get started?

All participating schools need one or more Basic Archery Instruction (BAI)-trained instructor(s) (*see Training below*) and National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP®)-approved equipment (*see Equipment below*).

Who are the instructors for the program?

Only BAI-certified individuals (*see Training below*) may instruct students and participate in the program. Typically, these individuals are school employees, such as PE instructors, coaches, or teachers. Volunteers are also welcome with school approval.

If I am a parent of a student or a volunteer can I become certified?

If school employees need additional assistance with after-school practices and/or tournament competition, they may suggest to other interested volunteers (parents, bow shop owners, etc.) that they take the BAI training so they may assist a school team. However, the school must acknowledge them as an instructor or assistant instructor of their school.

Who pays for equipment?

Equipment purchase is the responsibility of participating schools. However, schools can purchase equipment at discounted rates, and there are fundraising opportunities and grants available to offset equipment costs. For costs and fundraising ideas see *Equipment* below.

Is the curriculum approved by the DOE?

Yes, the West Virginia Department of Education helped design, and has approved, the program's curriculum.

How often are archery classes held at participating schools?

This is up to individual schools. Schools may choose to hold classes one day/week, or as a PE 3-week module. In order to participate in tournaments NASP® must be taught during the school day for at least 10-hours per year. After school programs and clubs are permitted if NASP® is being taught during the school day. NASP® and the WV DNR prefer the program be taught in PE classes, so the program will be available to all students. Then, schools may opt to host after-school activities and/or clubs for additional training and upcoming tournament competition.

How can I get information on participating schools?

There are over 300 schools currently (2020) participating in the program. A list of participating schools is available at: http://www.wvdnr.org/archery/Archery_schools.shtm.

If my son/daughter goes to a school without certified instructor(s) can they still participate?

No, only children in schools with certified instructors may participate in the program.

If my school (or my child's school) does not have AIS, what can I do to bring the program to the school?

Discuss the program with interested teachers and the school principal/administrator, referring them to the AIS website. If they are interested, have them contact Kayla Donathan at Kayla.M.Donathan@wv.gov or (304) 558-2771 ext. 51950 for AIS program information.

What kinds of schools can participate in the program? Does this include home schools?

All schools can participate: public, private, and home schools. However, schools need a BAI certified instructor(s) (*see Training below*) to participate.

What about potential liability?

Schools with BAI-certified instructors are covered from liability by their schools, the DNR, and NASP®.

What kind of archery is taught in the WV Archery in the Schools Program?

Olympic-style target archery is taught in the program.

My school already has an archery program but it is not NASP®. Can they participate?

No, only schools with an instructor(s) who has gone through BAI course and who have NASP® approved equipment may participate in the AIS program.

Can summer camps have a WV Archery in the School Program?

No. However, summer camp instructors, if interested in demonstrating AIS techniques at camp, may take the BAI training (*see Trainings*) if space is available. School teachers will be given training priority preference. Also, the summer camp instructor(s) will not be part of the NASP® program, will not be covered by DNR/NASP® liability insurance, and may not participate in NASP® tournaments.

Can Christian schools participating in the Centershot Program participate in the AIS program?

Yes, provided they are associated with a recognized church school. However, the Centershot Program in churches only (i.e., not in a church school) cannot be part of the AIS program. This is because the AIS program is geared to individual schools and not to a collection of individual students from different schools who participate in an after-hours, church-related activity. Churches wishing to participate in the Centershot Program should visit the following website: <http://centershot.org/>.

Equipment:

Can I use any equipment?

No, only NASP®-approved equipment may be used in the WV Archery in the Schools Program. Descriptions of NASP®-approved equipment (including Genesis 10-20 lb. adjustable compound bows, Easton 1820 aluminum arrows, etc.) can be found at the NASP® website:

<http://www.naspschools.org/equipment/>.

Where do I buy NASP®-approved equipment?

NASP®-approved equipment can be purchased from the NASP® website <http://www.naspschools.org/equipment/> or from participating sporting good dealers and online retailers. If the equipment is purchased from sources other than the NASP® website, teachers are responsible for assuring that the equipment is NASP® approved.

What is the minimum amount of equipment needed to get started?

For a team of 12, the absolute minimum amount of equipment would be: 1 net, 5 targets, 7 bows (2 of which are left-handed), and 5 dozen arrows. Of course, more equipment (such as an equipment box, bow hanger(s), string bows, arm guards, shooting gloves/tabs, more bows, targets, nets, and arrows) would facilitate instructing more students and enhance tournament competition.

What type of facility is used to teach/practice NASP®?

Typically, schools hold NASP® classes in their own gymnasium. The DNR prefers this arrangement rather than outdoor ranges or after school facilities because the many more children are exposed to NASP® and they can shoot year-round. However, the gymnasium/range should have enough room for tournament distances (15 meters, with clearance behind the shooting lines and behind/beside targets).

Can the DNR loan schools any equipment?

No, the DNR cannot loan schools any equipment. The DNR encourages schools to purchase sufficient equipment for their entire team(s).

Can I use carbon arrows?

No, only NASP®-approved arrows (Easton 1820 aluminum arrows) can be used in the WV Archery in the Schools Program/ NASP®.

Can I modify my equipment?

No, any modification of equipment may result in loss of liability insurance and dismissal from tournament competition.

Who maintains my equipment?

BAI-certified school archery instructors are responsible for all their own equipment maintenance, storage, and security. The DNR recommends schools establish a relationship with local sporting goods store technicians, archery/bowhunting organization members, or knowledgeable local individuals who may assist them with equipment maintenance.

Where do I find information on the equipment box, including design plans for self-construction?

Individual or multi-bow cases may be purchased online from NASP® at <http://www.naspschools.org/>. Plans to construct wooden equipment boxes are available on the DNR website at www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Archery_equipment_box.shtm.

Where can I obtain fundraising ideas to purchase equipment?

In West Virginia, various fundraising activities have included: tournaments, 50/50 drawings and gun/bow raffles, bucket drives, car washes and pancake/bake sales, 3-D archery shoots, donations by coal/timber operators, sporting goods stores, car dealerships, civic organizations, hunting/fishing clubs, banks, insurance companies, individuals, and through various grants (NASP®, DOE, WV Bowhunters Association, etc.).

Can my team use brass nocks?

For safety and liability reasons, NASP® prohibits the use of brass nocks (also known as “nock locators”). Further, brass nocks may not be used at either the WV AIS State Tournament or the NASP® National Tournament (see Tournaments). Instead NASP® suggests archers use a “tie-on” nock or the factory heat-shrink nock.

Trainings:**How much does the Basic Archery Instructor training class cost and what is provided?**

There is no cost to attend the Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) training. All manuals, CDs/DVDs, handouts, and tests are provided. However, participants are responsible for the cost of lodging, meals, travel, etc.

Where can I get information on your next training?

Information on all upcoming trainings will be advertised on our website at www.wvdnr.gov/archery/Archery_training.shtm and on our quarterly newsletters (in pdf format) automatically sent to participants e-mail addresses. The quarterly newsletter will also be posted on our website at: www.wvdnr.gov/archery.

How often do you schedule trainings?

Typically, the DNR schedules a training every 3 months (i.e., about 4 trainings/year).

By taking this training am I eligible for Continuing Education Hours (CEH) credit?

Yes, however, teachers must receive prior approval from their principal/administrator and enroll with their county school board.

Is the size of the class limited?

Training class sizes are usually limited to 25, however, some facilities allow us to include more individuals.

Can I host a training? If so, what do I need to do?

If you would like to host a training in your area you will need to have at least 10-15 interested individuals. Preferably, these individuals should be PE instructors, coaches or other school employees from as many different schools as possible. You will need to contact Kayla Donathan, Program Coordinator to determine available dates. Availability is limited. You must also ensure an adequately-sized facility is available and free of charge, is adequately staffed, and is open to us for a 2-day period (during the week). We will also need access to a television/DVD player, tables, chairs, etc.

How soon can my hosted training take place?

As soon as an individual can provide the above-mentioned items, trainings could be scheduled approximately 2-4 months following the last listed scheduled training on our website. Availability is limited.

Can Centershot instructors take trainings?

Centershot instructors associated with schools may take AIS training but they will first need a letter from their principal/administrator. Centershot instructors associated with a church and not a school are also welcomed to attend if extra space is available.

Tournaments:

Can any school participate in tournaments?

All WV schools (public, private, home schools) that have a BAI-certified instructor(s) actively teaching NASP® during regular school hours may participate in tournaments.

What tournaments are available for WV NASP® participants?

Schools participating in the WV AIS/NASP® may participate in the WV Qualifying Virtual Tournament. Schools that qualify may participate in the WV State Tournament, NASP® Nationals, and NASP® Worlds. Please refer to the annual NASP® Rules and Guidelines to find out more on qualifying for these tournaments. Schools may also participate in various tournaments throughout WV and surrounding states. A list of WV schools hosting tournaments is available at <http://wvdnr.gov/archery/vtournament.shtm>.

How do schools register and participate in the WV State Qualifying Tournament?

The Qualifying Tournament will be open to all West Virginia Schools that currently have a certified Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) and participate in the Archery in the Schools Program. The State Qualifying Tournament can be held at your school or in conjunction with other schools. The rules and guidelines will assist you in how to conduct your tournament and are available at the link below and are updated annually each fall. Coaches participating will need to submit tournament scores as directed to qualify for the State Tournament.

Tournament scores will be submitted online at www.nasptournaments.org You will need your BAI # to enter the site. To lookup your number visit <http://nasptournaments.org/UserUtilities/BAINumberLookup.aspx> or contact Kayla Donathan. Schools may participate as a team or individuals and there is no limitation on the number that may participate in the Qualifying Tournament. Please refer to the rules and guidelines for all NASP® Tournaments.

Who qualifies to participate in the WV State Tournament?

Those qualifying through the WV Qualifying Virtual Tournament to participate in the State Tournament will be the Top 7 teams in each division and the Top 20 male/female individual students that are not on a team per each division.

What are the age division for teams and individuals participating in NASP® Tournaments?

School teams are arranged in 3 divisions: Elementary School Division (4th – 5th Grade); Middle School Division (6th – 8th Grade); and High School Division (9th – 12th Grade). ***Please note divisional breakdowns are based on grades and should be followed regardless of whether the actual school is an elementary school, middle school, junior high school, high school, K-12, or any other type.*** Teams consist of 12-24 individuals, with a minimum of 4 of each sex. Therefore, teams may be made up of 8 boys and 4 girls, 8 girls and 4 boys, or any combinations thereof, provided each sex has a minimum of 4 participants.

Can schools still participate in Tournaments without 12 students?

Yes, individuals may participate in the WV Qualifying Tournament and advance to States, Nationals, and Worlds.

Is there a State Tournament fee?

There will be a \$8 non-refundable fee for each student participating in the State Tournament.

Do teams have assigned shooting/practice times at the State tournament?

Teams register for a shooting/practice times (same hour) during online registration before the event. ***All coaches and shooters must arrive 1 hour before their assigned shooting times to check-in***, as check-in may take some time for team additions, deletions, name corrections, etc. Otherwise teams may not have sufficient time to complete check-in prior to their assigned shooting period, and their shooting period may be forfeited.

How do teams practice and score at the tournament during their assigned times?

Teams will have 1 round of practice followed by 3 rounds of shooting at 10 meters. Then, teams will have 1 round of practice followed by 3 rounds of scored shooting at 15 meters.

Can teams bring their large bow boxes to the State tournament?

Teams are encouraged to bring bows in individual or multi-bow cases (cloth or plastic) but not large bow boxes. Bows may also be carried together in a cardboard box, or uncased by individual students (only if absolutely necessary).

Can teams alter/modify bows to improve accuracy?

No, any alteration or modifications to a bow (e.g. pencil/ink sighting lines, whisker biscuits or other modified rests, stabilizers, etc.) by an individual or a team will result in the immediate disqualification of the individual/team.

Can teams use bows with brass nocks at tournaments?

No, teams may not use bows with brass nocks (also known as “nock locators”) at either the WV State Tournament or the NASP® National Tournament. Teams should have any brass nock replaced with either plastic nocks (at qualified archery shops) or use “tie-on” nocks. For “tie-on” nock instructions visit http://wvdnr.gov/archery/Archery_links.shtm.

Where do I get the complete rules for the WV State Tournament?

This is located at our website at: <http://wvdnr.gov/archery/vtournament.shtm>. These are updated annually each fall.

How does the DNR determine the location and date for the WV State Tournament?

The State Tournament site is selected because of date availability, size, adequate and available staff, closeness to major transportation corridors, and lodging and dining availability. The WV State Tournament always precedes the NASP® National Tournament.

Where do I find information on the NASP® National Tournament?

This is located on the NASP® website at: <http://nasptournaments.org/>.