

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can become a member?

All Laguna Woods Village Residents are eligible to join with the exception (per GRF) that no more than 10% of the membership may be non-residents. Beginners and seasoned archers of all levels are welcomed.

What is the cost of membership?

The annual dues from May 1st to April 30th of each year are \$20 single and \$40 per couple. There is no proration and beginners are welcome. Drop by one of our open ranges to observe. A Lifetime Membership was once offered to assist the Club in acquiring the Range; however, that option is not available at this time.

What does membership include?

Members receive access to the Club's indoor shooting Range after successfully completing the Orientation Course. Members may use the available Club bow and arrows for FREE. Members can use their own equipment if the draw weight does not exceed 45 pounds and arrows have only Bullet/Field Tips. No other arrow tips allowed.

Does the Club have a Range where members can practice archery?

YES, the indoor range (20 yards maximum) is located next to Fitness Center #1 within Clubhouse #1. The range hours vary so please check our website and/or the schedule posted on the range door.

What is the Orientation Course?

A qualified Instructor will provide a brief introduction to archery techniques, safety rules of the range, and ensure the student practices archery in a safe and harmless manner. The mandatory Orientation Course is included in the one-time membership dues; however, a non-member may take the course at a cost of \$20 for LWAC range access.

When can I take the Orientation Course?

As stated, the Orientation Course, intended for only brand new and inexperienced shooters, is by appointment only. Upon submitting your completed Membership Application to the on-duty LWAC Range Manager and with payment of dues, the instructor will arrange for an appointment as soon as possible.

If you do not intend to be a member but would like access during the opened LWAC range, a special Orientation Course may be available for \$20 and lasts about 45 minutes, notwithstanding prior archery experience. Again, this is by appointment only and can be arranged with the on-duty LWAC Range Manager.

Must I join the Club to use the Range?

NO. Non-Members that are Laguna Woods Village Residents AND at least 18 years old may practice archery at the range for \$10 per open LWAC session AFTER successfully completing the Club's Orientation Course. The \$10 fee provides a Club bow and arrows. Paper targets are \$1 each and become your exclusive property.

Can a Resident's Guest use the Range?

YES, and ONLY after the Guest successfully completed the Orientation Course (\$20 course fee) and the Resident remains with the guest throughout the entire session. The Range fee is \$10 per LWAC session. Check the posted range schedule.

Is the Archery Range safe?

The Range will only open when there is a Range Manager on duty to supervise the shooters and manage the active Range process; either whistle or verbal commands determine the shooting operation.

Who is a Range Manager?

The Range Manager is a Club-trained member, who may also be a Certified Instructor that volunteers time to open the range and sees that all shooters operate in a safe and respectful manner.

Why did the Range Schedule change?

Club members that serve as Range Managers volunteer their time to open the Range. The Range operates exclusively through their personal sacrifice; hence, range times may vary according to their availability.

Can any Club member become a Range Manager?

YES. All members willing to devote time to operating the Range are welcome. The Club provides training by qualified Instructors who will make the final decision. The training is FREE.

What is the benefit for a member to be a Range Manager?

By volunteering to be a Range Manager and committing time to the Range program on a regular basis, the RM receives access to the Range during closed hours; that means personal time to practice archery by oneself and another RM or a non-shooting adult. There must always be two people in the range for safety reasons. The RM can also open the range to members on different days and times, if it does not interfere with prescheduled range use by others. Additionally, the RM receives storage access to secure personal equipment at the Range. RM's cannot invite Guests shooters when the Range is closed to the membership.

Must I be a Range Manager to receive Range access during closed hours?

NO. You can volunteer as a Committee Chairperson, volunteer to rebuild and maintain targets on a continual basis, or volunteer in other ways that help the Club and Membership. The Board will determine eligibility for personal Range access on a case-by-case basis.

Do I need an Instructor Certification?

It depends on your archery goal. USAA is a national archery club that provides training, certification, and hosts competitions throughout the nation. If you want to instruct others within USAA standards, the answer is YES. If you just want to compete in USAA sanctioned events, you only need USAA membership. The current cost for USAA membership alone is \$60 per year.

Is there a cost for Instructor Certification?

YES. The student must first become a USAA Member (\$60 annual dues); successfully complete a training course specific to the USAA Certification Level of choice (\$45 material + Instructor Fee); pass a USAA background investigation (\$25); and pass a USAA Internet SafeSport course. The Instructor Certification must be renewed every three years. The Background Investigation must be renewed every two years. The SafeSport course must be retaken annually.

Will Certification help improve my Archery skills?

NO. Certification only requires the student to complete a textbook course of study by a Certified Instructor and pass the written exam. There is no practicum nor skills test; Certification only means the instructor candidate received a general understanding of the principles of archery WITHOUT direct application. The Certified Instructor providing the course of study has not been skills-tested as well.... just textbook trained and passed a written test.

How can I improve my archery skills?

The range has many members that are skilled shooters who are not necessarily certified instructors. Often during an open range, members may provide suggestions on what could help accuracy if you're receptive to receiving unsolicited advice; it's part of the camaraderie and fellowship of our Club. The Club also has many Certified Instructors that provide Coaching; however, Certification alone does not guarantee they are better shooters, as Certification comes from taking a written exam after receiving textbook instructions from another higher-level certified instructor. *It is best to check their shooting skills at the range to see if they are consistently accurate.* It is not any different to many other sports.

There is a posted list of members with Instructor Certification at the Range. You make your own arrangements regarding private Coaching, as the Club does not provide endorsement of any Instructor. There are also many YouTube instructional videos, USAA training videos, external Archery Ranges, etc. that provide instructional aids as well. There is no short cut to improving your archery skills then practice, practice, and practice, but practice good archery techniques instead of reinforcing bad habits.

How can I donate to the Club?

Simply provide a check or cash (of any amount) in a sealed envelope and hand to the Range Manager during an open LWAC Range session. You may remain anonymous and even earmark the money for a specific item. The cost of target blocks, Range maintenance, archery supplies, professional equipment repairs, etc. rely on membership dues alone. The Club appreciates all types of donations aside from money like used or new archery gear, targets, usable arrows, etc. for the Club does NOT receive any funding aside from membership dues.