

## **ARCHERY FAQs:** Q & A

<https://worldarchery.org/news/126290/six-biggest-myths-about-archery>

### **Archery Statistics**

There are an estimated 6,800,000 archery participants in the United States every year  
The vast majority of these are youths aged 6-14 at summer camps  
Every year there are approximately 4,300 archery-related injuries requiring emergency room care  
The most common type of injury is abrasion from either the arrow or bowstring

## Shooting Safety

### **Inspecting a Bow and Arrow**

Even before nocking an arrow it is important to make sure that all equipment is inspected and in safe working order. A major cause of archery-related accidents comes from damaged bows or bow strings snapping. Make sure to check all components of both the bow and arrow for any signs of damage including cracks, chips, fraying, warping and any other wear and tear that could compromise the integrity of the equipment.

### **Proper Archery Attire**

While not always considered, it is important to make sure all archery participants are properly dressed



for the activity.

Participants should not wear anything that could get tangled in the bow. Never wear scarves, hoods, jewelry, or anything excessively loose. There have been cases of necklaces, bracelets, and earrings getting caught in a fired arrow and causing serious injuries.

## **Safely Firing a Bow**

To ensure safety, all archers should load, aim, shoot, and retrieve arrows at the same time. This will ensure that no one is accidentally shooting while someone is on the range retrieving arrows. Most archery ranges use the same system to control shooting and retrieving. Typical archery rules use a system of whistles to signify the appropriate action. One whistle blow means you can shoot, two means you can approach the shooting line, and three means you can go retrieve the arrows you have shot. Other important things to consider when shooting is to never load your arrow onto your bow with people in front of you. Make sure to never stand in front of a loaded bow.

## **Retrieving Arrows**

Make sure all archers wait to retrieve arrows until they are signaled to do so. If an archer misfires their arrow and it doesn't go very far, they are often tempted to quickly retrieve it so they can fire again. It is important to reiterate safety and discourage this behavior. Archers should not bring their bow with them onto the range and should safely set them down after they are done shooting. Make sure all archers have returned to the line from the range and that the range is all clear before signaling it is ok to shoot again. Pay special attention for archers whose arrow may have gone beyond the target as they can be overlooked before the signal to shoot again is given.