

NASP Mission

The *National Archery in the Schools Program* promotes instruction in international-style target archery as part of in-school curriculum, to improve educational performance and participation in the shooting sports among students in grades 4-12.

Operating Principles

1. All NASP safety features must be followed to preserve archery's impeccable safety record. *Archery's safety record is better than that of every ball sport taught in schools except table tennis. The set up and operation of a safe archery range is thoroughly covered in the NASP "Basic Archery Instructor" training series.*
2. NASP lessons are oriented towards target archery. *Target archery is widely accepted as a safe, wholesome, and non-controversial discipline. Founders designed the program so young people everywhere, whether urban or rural, could learn archery skills and decide on their own how and where to apply those skills.*
3. NASP lessons are presented to students in grades 4-12. *Students in these grade levels are best able to use the universal-fit NASP equipment and adhere to all NASP safety features. The units of study were written for these grade levels.*
4. NASP lessons are presented by NASP-trained instructors in accordance with their training. *Range set-up and operation, equipment, and training methods used in NASP are very specific and the same for every school in the program. No matter the prospective instructor's level of archery expertise, each must graduate from the NASP "Basic Archery Instructor" training series. Only NASP-certified trainers may present "Basic Archery Instructor" courses.*
5. NASP lessons are presented by school faculty as part of the in-school curriculum. *NASP lessons were co-written by educators and archers. They were designed to be compliant with core content standards defined by education departments. By aligning archery lessons with these standards, NASP lessons are taught in school, during the school day, to every student. This in-school teaching emphasis provides opportunity for every student to discover their interest and aptitude for archery as opposed to attracting only existing archers to after-school-only programming.*
6. Equipment used in NASP is standard and approved by NASP's board of directors. *NASP uses equipment that is safe, universal fit, modern, affordable, durable, easy for the teacher and the student to learn to use and identical for every student. NASP archery lessons focus on the development of proper process over results. When every student uses identical equipment, the tendency to blame or credit the archer's "success" on equipment choices is eliminated.*
7. Only entities approved by the NASP board of directors may coordinate implementation of the NASP in states, provinces, and countries. *Founders believe successful implementation of NASP requires institutionalization on a state, province, or country-wide basis. The coordinating entity must be willing to adhere to NASP operating principles and be capable of delivering jurisdiction-wide implementation.*
8. After-school archery activities for NASP students should strive to be inclusive and suited to youth of all genders, sizes, abilities, and economic backgrounds. *In-school NASP lessons are presented to every student. Every aspect of the NASP experience is suited to a large number and variety of students. Most NASP students want to participate in after-school archery activities. Many new archers would be discouraged to encounter methods or equipment in an after-school program that made it difficult for them to participate.*
9. NASP competitions should replicate, as closely as possible, the inclusive format used in the NASP National tournament.
10. Funding partners and sponsors of the NASP and its participating schools and events should be appropriate for youth programming.

Kentucky	837
Michigan	320
Ohio	307
Minnesota	285
Texas	210
Virginia	205
West Virginia	179
Oklahoma	175
Alabama	151
Wisconsin	150
Nebraska	150
Georgia	143
South Carolina	116
Florida	115
Illinois	115
Tennessee	101
Colorado	101
Arkansas	97
Indiana	93
Mississippi	91
Arizona	90
Iowa	70
North Dakota	70
Kansas	65
Pennsylvania	45
Washington	42
California	41
Oregon	40
Montana	40
Australia	40
Maryland	40
Louisiana	37
Wyoming	35
Missouri	35
Saskatchewan	35
Alaska	29
New Jersey	27
Idaho	25
New Mexico	25
South Dakota	24
Utah	23
Maine	20
North Carolina	20
New York	18
New Hampshire	12
Hawaii	12
Connecticut	10

Nova Scotia	10
Nevada	2
South Africa	1
New Zealand	1

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Assessing and Evaluating the National Archery in the Schools Program



The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) is a venture of state departments of education, state fish and wildlife agencies, and archery organizations and equipment manufacturers with the mission of promoting student education and lifelong interest and participation in the sport of archery.



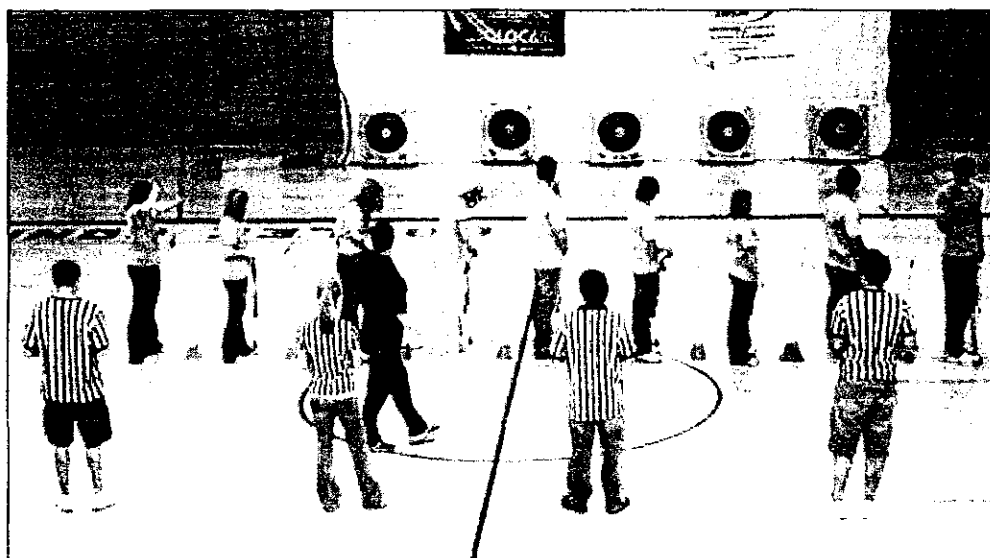
"Every student can succeed, [whether they are] athletic or not. Following directions, listening, concentrating, patterning, joyful physical activity are all essential school skills that are taught directly as a part of the NASP." —Michigan Instructor

The program, which is administered by the non-profit NASP Inc., provides international-style target archery training through a standardized education package that can be directly incorporated into a school's physical education or other curriculum. Since its inception in March 2002, more than 4 million students at 4,900 schools located in 46 states and 5 countries have participated in the NASP.

In 2008–2009, Responsive Management, in consultation with Hilarie Davis, Ed.D., of Technology for Learning Consortium, conducted a two-phase evaluation for the NASP to examine four hypotheses: (1) learning archery is engaging to students; (2) through archery, students improve learning skills and attitudes; (3) archery positively affects student interest in archery and other sports, and student participation in the archery program positively affects family interest in archery; and (4) archery positively affects student attendance and performance in school.

This was a multi-phase evaluation that entailed a questionnaire administered to a representative sample of physical education (PE) instructors from 10 of the 46

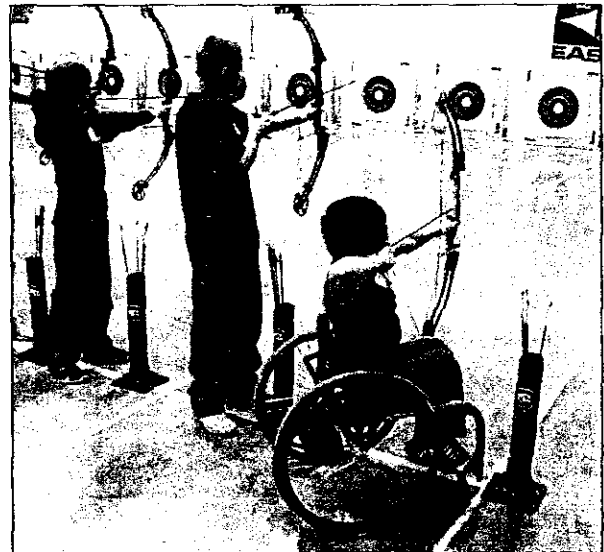
states involved in the NASP, a questionnaire administered to a representative sample of students who participated in the NASP from the same 10 states, and a quantitative evaluation of the impact that the NASP has on student attendance and grades. The final phase of the study was designed to incorporate student records into the analyses. For complete quantitative analyses of the impact of the NASP on



"The NASP program has given students that have not been that successful in other sports or even in school in general a chance to be successful, and be on the school team that attended the state tournament. This was a big boost in self-esteem." —Ohio Instructor

student attendance and performance, student records are necessary. The researchers are in the process of obtaining those records. Preliminary results of the first two phases of the study include the following:

- **Students Are Satisfied With the NASP.** Most students (80%) like the archery program in their schools, and a large majority (85%) report that their instructors did a good job teaching archery.
- **Students Are Engaged by the NASP.** A majority of students (74%) think the archery program is exciting, and just over three quarters (76%) rated their archery skills as either good or very good after taking the course.
- **Archery Improves Student Self-Confidence.** Eighty-four percent (84%) of instructors agree that archery has improved their students' self-confidence, reporting that archery gives students more confidence in their relationships with their teachers (51%), in other sports or physical activities (50%), and in friendships with other students (43%).
- **Archery Improves Student Motivation.** Seventy-eight percent (78%) of instructors agree that archery has improved student motivation, saying that the NASP gives students more motivation to stay out of trouble and be respectful of adults and friends (48%), to attend school (41%), to participate in other sports and activities (29%), and to get better grades (26%).
- **Archery Improves Student Behavior.** Most instructors (74%) agree that archery has improved student behavior; more than half (53%) report that student behavior as a whole has improved because of the program.
- **Archery Improves Student Concentration and Focus.** When asked specifically about student attention in archery, 76% of instructors believe that students pay more attention to what they are doing in NASP courses than in other classes.
- **The NASP Increases Student Interest and Involvement in Archery.** Seventy-nine percent (79%) of instructors say that the NASP has increased student interest in archery. Just over half (51%) of NASP students indicate that they have participated in archery since taking it in school.
- **The NASP Increases Student Interest in Hunting and Shooting Sports.** A significant percentage of NASP students (30%) indicate that they are more interested in other shooting sports since taking the archery program in school.
- **The NASP Improves Student Academic Performance.** When asked specifically if the NASP has affected student performance in their PE classes, 43% of instructors who had more experience teaching archery or who taught classes with more intense archery programs report that archery has improved student performance.
- **The NASP Increases Attendance in PE Classes.** When asked if they agree with a series of statements, nearly half (49%) of instructors say that the NASP has increased student attendance in their PE classes.



"We have a ton of kids who are never going to be baseball or football or track stars. You don't have to be strong, you don't have to be tall, you don't have to be fast—anyone can be an archer. And it's a life sport, it's something you can do until you're seventy or eighty. And I think that's huge for kids."
—Minnesota Instructor