

Archery in Louisiana Schools (ALAS) Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

What is the Archery in Louisiana Schools (ALAS) Program?

The Archery in Louisiana Schools (ALAS) Program is a statewide youth archery education program administered by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). Based on the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP®) curriculum, ALAS introduces students to the lifelong sport of archery in a safe, structured, and inclusive environment.

What is the goal of the ALAS Program?

The goal of ALAS is to provide students with opportunities to develop focus, self-confidence, discipline, responsibility, and sportsmanship while introducing them to outdoor recreation and conservation.

Who can participate?

Any Louisiana school that implements the NASP curriculum and has a certified instructor may participate in ALAS activities and tournaments.

Is prior archery experience required?

No. The program is specifically designed for beginners and can be successfully taught to students with no previous archery experience.

Is archery safe for schools?

Yes. Safety is the foundation of the program. All instructors receive formal training and certification, and every lesson follows established safety procedures and range commands.

School Participation

How does a school start an ALAS program?

Schools should:

- Obtain administrative approval.
- Have at least one educator become NASP Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) certified.
- Purchase approved NASP equipment.
- Incorporate the curriculum into physical education or extracurricular activities.

How does an instructor become certified?

Educators attend an approved NASP Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) course. The certification provides the knowledge and skills needed to safely teach the program.

Does ALAS provide equipment?

Equipment availability varies. Schools are encouraged to contact LDWF to discuss current grant opportunities, equipment assistance, and available resources.

What equipment is required?

Only NASP-approved equipment may be used for instruction and tournament competition. This includes:

- Genesis® bows
- Easton XX75 Genesis arrows
- NASP targets
- Approved backstop curtains
- Safety equipment and range accessories

How much does it cost to start an ALAS program?

The cost of starting an ALAS program depends on the number of students you plan to serve and the amount of equipment needed. Schools are responsible for purchasing NASP-approved equipment; however, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) offers equipment grants to eligible new programs each year and may also have loaner equipment available. Schools interested in starting a program are encouraged to contact the ALAS State Coordinator to discuss available funding opportunities and equipment assistance.

Can homeschool students participate in ALAS?

Yes. Homeschool groups are eligible to participate in the ALAS program. Like public, private, and parochial schools, homeschool groups must have a certified Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) and use NASP-approved equipment and curriculum. Homeschool students may also participate in ALAS-sanctioned tournaments provided they meet all applicable NASP and ALAS eligibility requirements

Curriculum

Is archery part of the school day?

Yes. Most schools incorporate ALAS into physical education classes, although many also offer after-school clubs and competitive teams.

Does archery meet educational standards?

Yes. The curriculum supports physical education standards while promoting concentration, motor skills, goal setting, teamwork, and personal responsibility.

Can students with disabilities participate?

Yes. ALAS encourages participation by students of all abilities whenever appropriate accommodations can be made.

Competition

Are tournaments required?

No. Schools may teach archery simply as part of their physical education curriculum. Tournament participation is optional.

What tournaments are available?

Schools may participate in:

- Local tournaments
- State Qualifying Tournaments
- ALAS State Bullseye Tournament
- ALAS State 3D Tournament
- National and World NASP tournaments (for qualifying teams and individuals)

Who is eligible to compete?

Eligibility is determined by NASP and ALAS rules regarding grade level, and enrollment.

Are students divided by age?

Competition is divided by school division rather than age:

- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School

Separate awards are presented for male and female archers where applicable.

Scholarships and Awards

Does ALAS offer scholarships?

Yes. Each year, ALAS awards scholarships to qualifying student archers based on established program criteria.

What other awards are available?

Students may earn:

- Individual medals
 - Team trophies
 - All-State recognition
 - Academic Archer awards
 - Other special recognition offered throughout the season
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Parents

Does my child need to own a bow?

No. Most schools provide equipment during class and practices.

Can parents attend tournaments?

Yes. Parents and family members are encouraged to attend and support student archers while following tournament guidelines.

How can parents help?

Parents can volunteer at tournaments, assist coaches, encourage practice, and support safe participation.

Conservation

Why is LDWF involved in archery?

Archery is a lifelong outdoor recreational activity that connects people with Louisiana's outdoor heritage. Through ALAS, students develop skills that encourage future participation in conservation, hunting, target archery, and other outdoor activities.

Does the program promote hunting?

No. ALAS teaches target archery, safety, discipline, and sportsmanship. While archery skills may later be applied to hunting or recreational shooting, hunting is not part of the curriculum.

Additional Questions

Where can I learn more?

For additional information about the Archery in Louisiana Schools Program, contact:

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Shooting Sports Program

Email: ldwfshootingsports@wlf.la.gov

Facebook: Archery in Louisiana Schools (ALAS)