

On the Archery Range at High Meadows School & Camp

The children's game Tic-Tac-Toe is a timeless classic and can be played with a multitude of materials, especially ones you would find on High Meadows School & Camp's 42-acre campus. While one might not expect an archery range to be the setting for a friendly game of Tic-Tac-Toe, that's exactly what unfolds on the ranges at High Meadows School & Camp as campers aim their arrows at a 3x3 grid of targets to try and win each round ... just like the pencil and paper game.

The archery range has challenged students and campers to achieve archery mastery every year since High Meadows began in 1973. Both the school and camp programs place a strong emphasis on safety, skill development, and the historical aspect of archery. High Meadows teachers and counselors understand the importance of honoring the past while educating students and campers about the traditions and techniques of cultures around the world.

High Meadows School & Camp is home to two archery ranges — Robinhood Range and Rebecca's Range. The latter is named in honor of Rebecca Crawford, a former HMS&C teacher and counselor. Her grandmother is Mema Crawford, who lived on campus in Crawford Cabin for many years.

During camp season and the school year, students and campers have an opportunity to shoot bows from around the world, including a Mongolian Horseback Riding Bow. The bow has a unique arch and shape that allows individuals to easily shoot from horseback. Each summer, campers test their skills on the ground by shooting at a rolling tire. It is a dynamic challenge requiring balance, focus, and precision.

In addition to history and fun games, Senior Legend campers (rising 7th through 9th graders) participate in an archery tournament during their overnight stay on campus. The tournament is the highlight of the bucolic night under the stars for many archers. With the entire campus available, the tournament is often spread across multiple locations, mimicking the layout of a championship golf course.

At High Meadows Camp, Senior Quest (rising 5th & 6th graders) and Legend campers can participate in the Knighthood program. Archery is one of the many areas where a camper can earn Knighthood distinction, but it takes years of hard work. "Requirements," as we call them, are set in place as guidelines for marking improvement and attaining skills, techniques, and talents. Campers must progress from Page to Squire to Sentry ... and finally, to Knight.

For Knighthood as an archer campers must meet incredibly four difficult requirements – shooting at a sliding target from 15-20 yards away, a timed string and shoot, shooting at a 3x3 target from intervals ranging from 10-50 yards, and finally, making and testing their own bow.

When campers achieve Knighthood, they are recognized during a ceremonial event. Following a reading of the Arthurian legend, the newly minted Knight is invited to pull the sword Excalibur from the stones at the center of Stonehenge, and their name is added to the permanent display that hangs there.

In recognition of its creative and educational approach, the American Camp Association (ACA) honored High Meadows Camp for its exceptional archery program and outside-the-box thinking, creative shooting challenges, and commitment to providing cultural education.

Archery at High Meadows is about skill development, hard work, and honoring the native cultures who relied on the bow and arrow for hunting the land. At High Meadows School & Camp, archers leave with stories of developing newfound skills, tournament championships, and most of all, memories they will never forget.