Basic Overview

4 general categories of bows:
- **Traditional**: simple design, may require more practice, uses arrows
- **Recurve**: shorter limbs than traditional, also requires more practice, uses arrows
- **Compound**: easier to hold at full draw due to reduced draw weight, uses arrows
- **Crossbow**: mounted on a stock, shot from horizontal position, cocking mechanism keeps bow at full draw, the "arrows" are referred to as bolts

Archery equipment is regulated on state and local levels
- Check rules and regulations in your area

Recreational and hunting uses
- Bow set up varies based on intended use
- Practice is essential for hunting/placing accurate shots
- Archery hunting sometimes requires specific tips or broadheads on the arrow depending on the species being pursued
- Recurve and traditional bows usually do not have sights, and are shot instinctively
- Compound bows usually have sights
- Crossbows can have both open sights, red dots, or magnifying scopes

Wide variety of additional equipment available

Safety

- Important with any bow
- Variety of considerations, may change based on equipment
- Only point bow/arrow in safe direction
- Only nock an arrow when safe to shoot
- Be sure of target and what is behind it
- Never shoot over a ridge
- Only shoot with safe range/shooting area and safe backstop/background
- Avoid dry-firing as it can damage the bow and injure the shooter or bystanders
# Introduction to Archery

**Recreational Archery**

User aims at targets inside or outside, set at predetermined distances. Archery competitions can be a fun challenge!

**Archery Hunting**

- Used for variety of species
- Pros and cons of different styles of bows
- **Practice at the range** for accurate shots/determine effective range
- Deer and turkey have a **minimum draw weight** for archery equipment

**Shooting Range Information**

- Public shooting ranges **ranked by class:**
  - A: supervised, rifle/pistol ranges
  - B: unsupervised, rifle/pistol ranges
  - C: unsupervised, clay target shotgun ranges
  - D: unsupervised, archery target ranges
  - O: other public ranges
- List of ranges and classifications available in Ohio Hunting and Trapping Regulations
- Archery ranges of any class do not require a permit

**Other Considerations**

- There are **different arrow/bolt points that are used for different situations**
- Examples include target points for recreational archery, field points for practicing at the range, and broadheads for archery hunting
  - There are various styles of field points and broadheads in different weights
  - Important to practice with each type of arrow point. Even if they are the same weight, they may not shoot and group the same

**Where to Shoot**

- Public shooting ranges at wildlife areas and Ohio State Parks
- Check the NSSF directory
- Find a list of public ranges in the Hunting Regulations

**Interested in Taking the Next Step?**

- The Wild Ohio Harvest Community offers in-person learning opportunities that build on the content in this module
- Find other learning modules, resources, and more!