



## FAQ's for new archers and parents

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### **Is prior archery experience necessary?**

No. Even if you haven't shot a bow before, you can join the team. All new archers will attend a mandatory, learn-to-shoot clinic using elastic bands prior to actually shooting a bow.

### **Am I required to attend the Experience Archery learn-to-shoot clinic and first bow practice?**

Yes. Regardless of your prior archery experience, these events are mandatory. Range safety and rules as well as proper shooting technique will be taught.

### **Do we need to provide our own bows and equipment?**

Bows and arrows are available through Xavier. We shoot with standard Genesis bows and Easton 1820 arrows. If you have your own standard Genesis bow (not the Gen-X), you may use it. Other models of compound or recurve bows are not allowed. Archers will need to purchase a shooting glove (or finger tab), arm guard, finger sling, and a black skort (to wear for tournaments).

### **What is the time commitment? (Practice times, days, etc.)**

Archery season begins in September and ends with the State Championship in late February. A National Tournament takes place in April for those who qualify. Practices occur on Thursdays 3-5pm (Blue Team), Friday 1-3pm (Green Team) and Sundays from 12:30-2:30 pm. Practice locations include Brophy Loyola Hall Basement, Petznick Field, and Ben Avery Archery Range (4044 W. Black Canyon Blvd.). A schedule will be provided at the Experience Archery event with the practice locations. Tournaments take place on Saturdays twice a month. Most team members find the time commitment to be manageable.

### **What are tournaments?**

Xavier Archery is a member of NASP (National Archery in the Schools Program). Our team competes in tournaments throughout the State of Arizona (Prescott, Tucson, Mayer, Wickenburg, etc.). There will be three to four State Qualifiers, two community tournaments, and the State Championship. Due to Covid, some tournaments will be "virtual" taking place on our practice facilities. For out of town tournaments, the team travels together on the Xavier bus.

### **How has Xavier performed at tournaments?**

This year, Xavier placed 3rd at the State Tournament in Target and in 3D. Many of our archers finished in the top 10 at tournaments. A few of our archers even placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd! Our team will compete in the National tournament in two weeks. Go Gator Archers!

### **Are Junior Varsity and Varsity Letters awarded?**

Yes! JV and Varsity letters are awarded to archers who qualify. Your coach will go over the criteria needed to earn a letter.

### **How many archers are on the team and will there be cuts?**

The competitive team consists of 24 archers. Cuts will be made in January for the competitive team. Numerous factors are taken into consideration when determining who makes the team: ability, attitude, commitment, coach-ability, enthusiasm for archery, etc. Even those who have never shot a bow before can make the team. There will be no cuts for the Fall semester.

**What are the shooting distances and types of targets?**

During competitions, bullseye targets are placed at 10 meters (32' 10") and 15 meters (49' 2") from the shooting line. In addition, archers can choose to compete in 3D in which animal-shaped targets are placed at varying distances ranging from 10 to 15 meters.

**Is archery safe? What Covid-19 precautions are being undertaken?**

Archery is one of the safest sports around. In order to keep everyone safe, rules on the range must be followed. With regards to Covid-19, the team follows guidelines put forth by Xavier's Athletic Department, USA Archery Association, and the Arizona Department of Public Health. Archers have their own bow and arrows, so equipment is not shared. Masks are currently worn by all archers and coaches. To decrease Covid transmission, most practices are held outdoors.

**What is the financial commitment to join the team?**

Archery is a club sport and receives no monetary funds from Xavier. Team dues are \$250 per archer. Dues are spent on range rental fees, tournament registration, the team competition shirt, archery equipment (bows, arrows, targets, etc.), an occasional team lunch, and the end-of-season celebration. If team fees create financial hardship for your family, please discuss this with the head coach.

**What is required of my parent/guardian?**

Xavier Archery is a volunteer-run organization and could not function without the help of parents. All parents/guardians are expected to volunteer. Examples include: setting up the range, being a line judge at tournaments, photographing events, coordinating team sweatshirt orders, organizing a team lunch or the end-of-year party, etc.

**How can I prepare in advance?**

Archery utilizes upper body, back, and core muscle strength. The lower body provides stability and balance. Mental strength is needed for focus and concentration. Being in good physical shape and coming to practice mentally prepared benefits all archers! Our program teaches the 11 Steps for Shooting Success. Coach Scott Wagy has created videos on these steps that should be viewed prior to the learn-to-shoot clinic.

**What are the benefits of joining the archery team?**

Archers acquire skills such as focus, patience, confidence, and perseverance. You will make friends, receive encouragement, step outside your comfort zone, and have lots of fun! The esprit de corps of our team is positive, supportive, collaborative, and friendly!

**Who are the coaches?**

Xavier and Brophy archery teams share the same dedicated coaching staff. All archery coaches are volunteers and hold a NASP Basic Archery Instructor certificate. Some coaches have also been certified by USA Archery. All coaches have completed Safe Environment training through the Diocese of Phoenix.

**Further questions?** Contact Head Coach Kelsey Gerchar: [kgerchar@xcp.org](mailto:kgerchar@xcp.org)

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