

PGC Long Range Use/Certification FAQ's (12/12/2024)

I would like to use the long-range line once I become a member. How do I become qualified to do that?

- This is a very straightforward process. Once you become a member, just start enjoying all the features of the range with its 25-yard and 50-yard bays as well as the long-range line out to 200 yards. When you decide you want to shoot out beyond 200 yards, all you need to do is contact the instructor for the **Advanced Marksmanship Course (AMC)** to discuss your rifle platform and request his approval to register for the course. Then, proceed to PGC's website; under "PGC Store," click on "Courses and Training," look for "Advanced Marksmanship Course (Members)." Enter the number in your party (default is "1") and choose the date that suits your schedule. The AMC is currently scheduled to be offered three times in 2025, at a cost of \$60 for members, \$120 for non-members. (Immediate family members are eligible for the \$60 fee.) Incidentally, you'll find the instructor's name and contact information in the AMC training description.

Advanced Marksmanship Class link:

<https://store.palmettogunclub.org/advanced-marksmanship-course-members/>

- Regardless of your experience, this class allows PGC to vet serious long-range candidates to (1) ensure they know and can demonstrate the basics of long-range precision shooting and (2) understand the PGC rules and what's expected to shoot safely and enjoy the long line as a PGC member.
- AMC is a 1.5-day class split into 2 parts. The first part, Day 1, is 1 full day on a Sunday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The second part, Day 2, is a 1/2-day one month later that goes from 1:00 PM to late afternoon.
- Once you sign up, you'll receive materials prior to the class and be encouraged to get your platform ready for Day 1. This is a perfect opportunity to hit the range prior to Day 1 and zero your rifle at 100 yards. You'll get several very nice targets that you can print and use at your discretion. If you do this in advance, you'll be well prepared for Day 1.

What you can expect:

- **On Day 1 in the morning;** the morning session is classroom training. You'll learn key principles of ballistics that will enable you to safely shoot long distances. This information, along with the Advanced Rifle Marksmanship Manual and Mil/MOA practice problems provided earlier, will go a long way in preparing you for the written test on Day 2, so it'll be important to read and study all material prior to Day 2.
- **On Day 1 in the afternoon;** you'll do two important shooting tests. The first is a "Box Test," which will allow you to confirm that your scope's windage and elevation turrets are able to adjust left/right and up/down, respectively, and return to its starting point without losing adjustments or being off. Good scopes are designed to do this consistently. The second test is a "Tall Turret Test" using a tall target that will be provided. This test allows you to confirm that when you increase elevation on your scope that your bullet impacts go straight up, accurately, without canting off to the left or right, and consistently return to your starting point. The target will be attached to its stand using a plumb bob to ensure it is perfectly vertical. If your rifle, mounts, scope, and reticle are all level and plumb, you should have no problem with this test. These tests not only prepare your platform for the Day 2 practical shooting test, they give you confidence in your system.

- **On Day 2;** which starts at 1:00 PM sharp, you'll take a 25-question test that includes true/false, multiple choice and Mil/MOA problems. (Bring a calculator.) You are given one hour to take the test. For most students this has proven to be more than enough time. The problems will require you to use formulas and principles learned on Day 1 to calculate MOA, Mils, height/width, range, bullet impact changes in elevation and related items. If you study the materials provided and learn how to use the formulas, there is a very high probability you will achieve a passing score of 80% or higher. (20 correct answers out of 25 is 80%.) Those who are unable to achieve at least 80% on the written test are not permitted to proceed to the practical test; however, you may sign up for the next class and try again at no additional charge. Those who study the Advanced Rifle Marksmanship Manual and perform the Mil/MOA practice problems have a VERY HIGH passing rate!

- **Once you pass the written test,** you move on to the practical shooting test. You can shoot either prone or from a bench. You will need to successfully hit steel plates at 300, 400, 500 and, finally, 600 yards. Successfully hitting each plate, starting at 300 and progressing out to 400, 500 and finally 600, qualifies you to use the long line at PGC. The instructor and/or assistants provide a yeoman's service spotting your shots, offering suggestions for elevation and windage adjustments to help you hit your targets. The instructors want you to succeed, so this is a very enjoyable experience.

- **A final note.** You can use whatever rifle and scope you'd like, but keep in mind the final test requires hitting steel plates out to 600 yards. So, if you have doubts about your platform at those distances, consult with the AMC instructor, give it some thought and bring a setup that will allow you to succeed. Once you're qualified, you can try all your platforms at longer distances.

Can I challenge the AMC?

- Yes, you can! We recognize that many PGC members have exceptional long distance shooting skills, whether from competing in long distance competition, or real-world experience as snipers in law enforcement, or military. As these members are already proficient in long distance shooting, there is no need for such members to sit through the first day of training, or confirm the accuracy of their equipment. However, aside from participating in sanctioned long-distance competitions, even challengers are required to pass the written test and the practical test to be certified as qualified to shoot on PGC's long-distance line. Although Challengers are not required to register in an AMC on PGC's online store and pay the \$60 fee, you must contact the AMC instructor, or other PGC long-distance certified instructor, to discuss where and when you will take the written test and then the practical test. Since taking a written test involves scheduling a classroom, for the sake of convenience, the AMC instructor might suggest you attend a regularly scheduled "Day 2" and take your tests alongside the registered AMC students.

Please note: Challengers must pass BOTH tests! If a challenger fails either test, their only option to attain long-distance certification is to register in a subsequent AMC and pay the \$60 fee.

PGC Membership Application FAQ's (5/20/2021)

I'm new to the area and do not know any club members. Is sponsorship necessary? How do I get a sponsor?

Sponsorship is a necessary part of the application process. There are two ways to meet PGC members and obtain sponsorship.

- The first method is to attend a weekend match. Many PGC members participate in matches and are happy to meet new candidates. The general public may attend matches after checking in with a match director and paying the required fee. Check the club calendar to find a match that interests you.
- The second way is to attend a monthly meeting and meet the members there. Please try to arrive ½ hour prior to the meeting and check in with the secretary upon arrival. You will be given an opportunity to introduce yourself at the start of the meeting and to identify your particular shooting interests. Those club members sharing your interest will be encouraged to meet and consider you for sponsorship.

There are many steps to the application process. Do I have to attend each one?

The application steps are necessary to determine if the candidate is suitable for the club, including the ability to legally and safely handle firearms.

- The on-line application may be activated at a member meeting in person or by the sponsor or other club member. Only after the application is activated, will the first vote be scheduled for a later meeting.
- Of the two votes, the candidate must attend at least one in person, and the candidate's sponsor or other club member may stand in for the candidate for the other vote. The candidate's sponsor must attend one of the votes to vouch that he/she does support club membership for the candidate.
- The candidate must attend the club orientation in person.