Share A Tip And Win Prizes

If you've developed a teaching technique that works in your classroom to help convey the important messages in the hunter education curriculum, we would like to hear about it. We are looking for tips that teach safety, ethics and other topics. The tips should create fun for the class and be easy for the instructor to make or implement. If your tip is selected, you will receive a useful prize or coupon for free hunting gear. Send your teaching tips to: HEJ Teaching Tips, Box 3445, Minnetonka, MN 55343.

Carrots Teach Carrying Capacity

One topic that is difficult to teach is the concept of habitat carrying capacity. I have had success conveying the idea to students by using a packet of carrot or other common vegetable seeds. I have a student read the planting instructions aloud. The instructions state that the seeds should be planted a certain distance apart and in rows a certain distance apart. Later, seedlings are to be thinned even farther apart. I then lead the class in a discussion about why the seeds need a certain amount of habitat and why they must be thinned as they grow larger, etc.

Since I have begun using this inexpensive teaching aid I have seen a much higher level of comprehension among my students.

Lee Ashford
Bieber, CA

Attention Grabbers

Sometimes instructors will have students attend courses who are doctors, ranchers, gunsmiths, etc. I have asked these students to please bring any unusual items they find to class for "show and tell." Some of their items are real attention grabbers and have been donated to the hunter education program for training aids.

Our unusual items include two x-rays that were donated by a doctor. One x-ray shows a 12 gauge blast from 30 yards to a person's upper right chest and shoulder. The other is an example of what a .243 Win. bullet from 100 yards can do to the thigh bone. Your local hospital x-ray department might also be a good source for these. Another display is the chain from a front entrance gate with four locks attached. The chain was shot twice and all four locks have bullet holes. A rancher donated the chain and locks. A gunsmith also donated three blown gun barrels. These are real attention grabbers!

Brock Minton
San Angelo, TX

Pass The Mouse Trap

Here is a great way to teach students to exercise caution when handling firearms. I take a mouse trap and set the trigger. Then I form a line of students and pass the mouse trap from the beginning of the line to the end without the students tripping the trigger.

I tell the students that this is the same way they should handle any firearm— with great caution and safety as the number one priority.

Eduard Sibprell
Centerville, NB

Pass The Survival Gear

For the past several years I have been assigned to teach the survival segment of the hunter education course. I have found a fun way to get the students interested in the class by preparing a survival kit. Place the items in a tote bag or storage container. Then pass it around the classroom and ask the students to pull out an item and tell the class what the item is and how it can be used in a survival situation. This gives the students hands-on training and keeps them involved.

Danny Williams
Manhattan, KS

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INDUSTRY CONNECTION

IHEA Instructor & Agency Discounts Purchase Program and Materials: These discounts are offered to agencies or instructors for use in hunter education programs as indicated by the manufacturer. Proof of IHEA membership or active instructor card required. Original signed copy of FFL required for firearm purchases. For a complete list of discount purchase programs, contact the IHEA office at (970) 568-7954.

Knight Rifles is offering a discount to hunter education instructors on its Wolverine, Thunabhole Wolverine, Bighorn, DISC and MK-85 Predator in-line musketeers. The company also offers a discount on accessory starter kits.

Contact Lisa Criss-Dickerson for an order form at Knight Rifles, Dept. HEJ, Box 130, Centerville, IA 52544. You can also call (515) 856-2626 ext. 107 or fax (515) 856-2628.

Rogue Rifle Company, manufacturer of the original Chipmunk youth rifle, has started an instructor purchase program. The Chipmunk rifle weighs 2 1/2 pounds and is 30 inches long. This firearm is ideal for smaller students and comes with a lifetime guarantee.

For an instructor price list and order form, contact: Rogue Rifle Co., Dept. HEJ, Box 20, Prospect, OR 97536 or call (541) 560-4040 or fax (541) 560-4041 or e-mail rugerifle@earthlink.com.