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International Hunter Education Association-United States of America  
Mission Statement:  
Continuing the heritage of hunting worldwide by developing safe, responsible, knowledgeable and involved hunters.

The International Hunter Education Association – United States of America (IHEA-USA) is an organization involving some 70,000 instructors across the United States of America. The IHEA-USA is affiliated with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

The Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal is the official publication of the International Hunter Education Association-United States of America. It is published four times annually (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) and distributed to more than 70,000 administrators and volunteer instructors in Canada, El Salvador, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa and the United States of America, that are responsible for education programs that total 750,000 hunters annually. The purpose of the publication is to increase the skill and effectiveness of hunter education in administrators and instructors so they can improve the enthusiasm, safety, ethics and proficiency of their students as they embark on lifetime enjoyment of hunting and the shooting sports.

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A Harris Survey showed that nearly 98 million Americans are interested in giving hunting or shooting a try, but many do not have someone to show them the way. Introducing someone new to hunting can help him or her overcome some of the hurdles that new hunters face today. In turn, it gives you, as the mentor, the opportunity to enjoy more time outdoors and have some fun with family and friends.

In Iowa, when we have asked people who have never hunted why they do not hunt, they often tell us it is because they do not have anyone to take them. They do not know where to go. They do not know how to hunt, or have the equipment necessary to hunt. I am sure these responses ring true in many other states as well. If you reflect on who introduced you to the outdoors and hunting, it probably was a family member or a close friend of the family. This is not necessarily the case today!

Passing on the hunting tradition to your children, grandchildren, a neighbor, a co-worker or someone you met at a recent hunter education class or on the shooting range, is imperative for conservation of species and habitat. Mentoring is the key! If it were not for mentors, it is likely that we may never have started hunting or spending time outdoors enjoying other activities. If we do not invest the time to pass on our knowledge, skills, and passion like others did for us, we will not be able to maintain this great American pastime.

When mentoring a prospective new hunter, remember that it does not always have to be a youngster. Mentoring another adult can be just as rewarding. Adults have the means to provide their own transportation and purchase their own equipment, gear, and required licenses/tags—unlike many children. They just need guidance on where to go and what they truly need to get started, versus weeding through today’s advanced gadgets and gizmos. Usually, after a few hunts with a mentor, an adult hunter will feel more comfortable and start becoming more independent on future outings. It is always nice to maintain a relationship with the new hunter, however, so the mentor can continue to answer questions and provide added training as the person experiences different hunt methods and species.

Whether you are mentoring someone younger or older this hunting season, he or she will be extremely appreciative of your efforts and cherish the memories for a lifetime.

Tips on making their first hunting experience a success:

Use what you have learned in Hunter Education to teach them the basic knowledge and skills necessary to be a safe and responsible hunter.

New hunters do not need to become experts their first time out. It is far more important for them to have a good time and develop a better understanding and appreciation of what hunting is all about.

Remember, new hunters do not have the same level of experience, knowledge, or skills as you. Start with the basics. Take time to explain each step so that the novice hunter will feel comfortable doing these things on his or her own on future hunts.

Building confidence in a new hunter is critical. Recognizing small accomplishments and keeping a positive attitude will ensure that the experience is fun and exciting.

Most new hunters will not have the necessary equipment. Meet with them ahead of time and show examples of what they need to get started. Start with basic clothing and gear. As you increase the opportunities, so, too will the need for added equipment.

Most importantly, share your love and passion for the outdoors. Many people have never just sat in the woods observing nature and the beauty around them. Show them that hunting is more than taking game. They should understand hunters’ role in wildlife management practices and that hunters pay for conservation.
YOUR STORIES WILL NOT BE ABOUT THE AMMO. THEY WILL NOT BE ABOUT THE CALIBER OR THE RIFLE. THEY WILL NOT BE ABOUT THE CRAFTSMANSHIP, THE VELOCITY, THE TERMINAL PERFORMANCE, OR THE METICULOUS DETAIL IN EVERY ROUND.

BUT, THEY WILL BE BECAUSE OF IT.

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After 30 years of teaching outdoor education, one of the best techniques I have found for “planting a seed” to long-term, responsible outdoor behaviors, is to slip the serious messages “under the carpet” of fun, exciting, hands-on skill training. This is especially critical when thinking about relevance to today’s “selfie” (instant self-gratification) generations. (See Summer Journal.)

Most outdoor activities may be relatively complex to learn (e.g. hang gliding, rock climbing, hunting). Research shows that interest, trial, repetition, easy access to places and equipment, access to mentors, practice, continual guidance and individual/social support all play a major role in getting us to the “continuation without support” phase.

As hunter education instructors, we are at the ‘interest’ or ‘trial’ phase of someone’s development, unless we are involved, long-term, in a person’s shooting sports or hunting activities (e.g. 4-H Shooting Sports, in-school teachers, mentorships and multiple hunts over many years). For the most part, we have only an “introductory” opportunity (less than a day) with our students.

For students to eventually exhibit responsible outdoor behaviors (i.e. safe, knowledgeable, legal and desirable, ‘ethical’ actions), we must motivate them to think critically about their actions while learning how to handle sporting arms, shoot, hunt, trail, and properly take care of (or donate) game from field to freezer. As we know, their actions will positively or negatively impact themselves, other hunters, landowners, non-hunters and/or the resource itself.

With an introductory experience, we also know that if it is not FUN, we may not motivate them enough to continue along the pathway. I believe our most critical role as instructors during a hunter education course is to provide something that is truly exciting and fun for our students. I am convinced that if we do not provide field experiences (e.g. firearm handling, live fire, distance judging, shot placement, hunter skills trail, wildlife identification challenge), we miss a huge opportunity to really motivate our students. We must make the course memorable enough for them to “take in” the subliminal messages dealing with safety, legal compliance and responsibility.

In other words, once you have students smiling, active and involved, you can properly influence them on what it really means to be successful shooting sports participants, hunters and conservationists (i.e. get them “drinking the Kool-Aid”). I know of few instances where a student having FUN is not willing to believe in the rest of the ideas you have to share regarding safe and responsible shooting/hunting/outdoor practices.

It also makes the course more FUN for us—hunter education instructors!
TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HUNTERS.
Humboldt County Shooting Park Project, Winnemucca, Nevada

A grassroots effort to provide safe shooting and educational opportunities for the public

By Justin Cutler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with assistance from Chris Vasey, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and Doris Twitchell, Shooting Park Committee

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR), administers the Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, the nation’s oldest and most successful wildlife restoration program. Under the Wildlife Restoration Act, one of WSFR’s goals is to facilitate funding to the states for their hunter education programs, and includes the construction and enhancement of shooting ranges for hunter education activities and shooting skills development. The Humboldt County Shooting Park is just one of many success stories in Nevada of partnerships putting these federal funds to their intended use.

Following the closure of the Humboldt County Shooting Range in 2006, area sportsmen were left looking for a place to practice shooting safely. Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) was also looking for additional areas to provide classrooms for their hunter education program and ranges for shooting skills development. Shortly after the range closed, the Humboldt County Board of Commissioners sanctioned a committee that ultimately approved of a new suitable site on county-owned land adjacent to the regional landfill. In January 2008, a plan was developed for two 50-yard pistol ranges, 100-yard and 400-yard rifle ranges, and a parking area. With land and plan in place, the next step was securing funding to build the range.

A grand opening ceremony was held on June 6, 2008, and the site was dedicated by the commissioners as the “Humboldt County Shooting Park.” A new range committee was formed and they started raising funds for the initial construction. With the generous contributions from individuals, local businesses, sportsmen’s organizations, mining industries, the City of Winnemucca and Humboldt County, over $40,000 was raised with an equal amount of in-kind support. With the available funds they were able to start the project by building one shotgun bay, one pistol bay, one combination pistol/rimfire bay, a four-station 100-yard bay and a two-station 400-yard bay with safety berms, signs and parking areas.

In 2009, the Services’ WSFR program awarded a grant under the Wildlife Restoration Act to NDOW for $80,000, which was subsequently sub-granted to the Shooting Park to complete the work, including the construction of a 1,800 square-foot education building and a prefabricated restroom facility. This grant required a 25-percent match, which was provided by documented in-kind donations and volunteer labor at the range. Completed with the financial support and volunteers from the community, this building is the first county building to be totally powered and heated from solar.

The Kaitlynn Marie Education Building was officially opened on August 15, 2009. Since then, the Shooting Park has hosted many of Nevada’s Hunter Education classes. The Education Building is available to any and all organizations for various different hands-on courses, meetings...
and seminars related to shooting sports activity.

In 2011, WSFR again granted an award of $60,000 to NDOW for sub-granting to the Shooting Park for the construction of perimeter security fencing. On May 11, 2013, Humboldt County was awarded a $28,705 grant from the Humboldt River Friends of the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the NRA Foundation, Inc., to be used for additional improvements to the Education Building. With this grant, additional purchases were made to upgrade the existing lighting and solar system in the Education Building.

In 2013, WSFR granted an award of $26,000 to NDOW for the construction of an outdoor restroom. As of June 2015, WSFR is also likely to approve another grant award of approximately $34,600 to NDOW, for the construction of concrete parking areas, ramps and pads to enhance public access, especially for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) needs.

At the request of NDOW, the installation of an aluminum boat supported on springs was recently completed. The boat will be used as a novel aide for safety training in the Hunter’s Education Classes.

According to the Shooting Park, traffic data shows that as enhancements are made, more and more people use it. Future projects include having a park host live on the site. The Shooting Park has also filed applications with the Bureau of Land Management to acquire more land adjacent to the landfill to expand facilities to potentially include a 1,000-yard range.

This project is a true grassroots effort that brought many volunteers and donors together at the local level to support it. Special thanks to all the volunteers and donors who have helped achieve this project including: Humboldt County Shooting Park Committee members Kent Arrien, Robert Thomason, Bob Norris, Vic Christison, Doris Twichell, A.L. Brinkoetter, Walt and Sheryl Curtis; Ron Jenkins, the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the NRA Foundation, Inc.; Winnemucca Convention & Visitors Authority; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; Midas Bighorns Unlimited; Humboldt Ready Mix; Redcor Drilling Inc.; Curtis Machinery, Inc.; DeLong Drilling and Construction; Carson Valley Clays; John Bianchi from Napa Auto Supply; Sun Solutions NV, LLC; City of Winnemucca; and Humboldt County.

The Shooting Park is located at 7930 2nd Amendment Road off of the Winnemucca Mountain Road, just past the Humboldt County Regional Landfill. Contact NDOW’s Office in Winnemucca at (775) 623-6565 for inquiries regarding facility use. The Shooting Park is open to the public at no charge, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Funded in part by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, Pacific Southwest Region
IHEA-USA and National Shooting Sports Foundation’s Historical Relationship

By Jim Curcuruto, NSSF, Director, Industry Research and Analysis

Well-documented are the long histories and individual accomplishments of the National Shooting Sports Foundation® (NSSF®) and the International Hunter Education Association—USA (IHEA-USA) organizations. Lesser known however, are the many synergies between the two groups over the past six decades that have resulted in hunting being a safe and enjoyable activity.

NSSF was formed nearly 55 years ago in 1961 by leaders of the hunting and shooting sports industry to help ensure the preservation of America’s hunting and shooting heritage. Several standout programs and events got their start at NSSF including National Hunting and Fishing Day, SHOT Show®, The Sportsman’s Team Challenge, STEP OUTSIDE, Scholastic Clay Target Program, Families Afield, Project ChildSafe and First Shots, but all along the way one thing remained constant: a focus on firearms safety.

IHEA-USA’s roots in firearms safety date back to 1949, so it was inevitable that paths would cross between the two organizations. And cross they did. One of the first major efforts between NSSF and IHEA occurred in the early 1970s, when the two groups worked together to develop a standardized hunter education curriculum. The two groups then worked to make hunter education mandatory across the U.S. After those early successes, NSSF and IHEA joined forces to promote hunter orange in the 1980s, making great strides with that effort. Longtime NSSF employee Doug Painter, who worked on these early initiatives, said, “It was clear from the very beginning that the two groups had so much in common and could help further each other’s causes, that working together was in everyone’s best interest.”

In the mid 1990s, NSSF became a major financial backer in funding IHEA’s first full-time director. From later in that same decade through the first decade of the 21st century, the two groups focused on determining the feasibility of online hunter education and the best ways to introduce this option to students. Today’s flourishing online education opportunities are a result of those efforts.

One of the greatest success stories of this long-standing relationship between the two organizations is that, with the help of IHEA’s dedicated hunter education coordinators and instructors, millions of NSSF’s hunting and firearms safety-related brochures have been distributed to hunter education students over the years. More recently, NSSF and IHEA-USA have also worked together on several research projects that have helped each group, as well as the industry as a whole, to better understand current conditions of the youth market.

In 2012, with help from the IHEA-USA, the NSSF and Hunting Heritage Trust partnered on a study entitled Understanding the Impact of Peer Influence on Youth Participation in Hunting and Target Shooting, which gathered information from today’s youth on their perceptions of hunters and target shooters. Key findings from this study included the fact that young hunters and target shooters are looked at by their peers as role models; the way they portray themselves also affects their peers’ views of other hunters and target shooters. Additionally, the study found that the vast majority of non-participating youths do have a positive outlook on these activities, and many would try hunting or target shooting if asked by a friend or family member. These findings, along with other key factors, were presented in a fact sheet the IHEA-USA distributed to all its coordinators and instructors.

In 2013, NSSF and the IHEA-USA again partnered on a research project, this one having the purpose of identifying the percentage of hunter education graduates
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who go on to purchase a hunting license. Well-documented results from this study, entitled Hunter Education Graduates’ Proclivity to Purchase a License, identified that nearly a third of hunter education graduates did not purchase a hunting license within the first five years of graduating hunter safety. Using this and other findings, the hunting community now better understands where intervention efforts are needed to maintain hunting participation among these newest hunters.

One of today’s ongoing efforts between NSSF and the IHEA-USA is in keeping the Hunter Incident Clearinghouse database up to date. We know hunting is a safe activity, but we need accurate statistics on hunting-related incidents in order to make valid comparisons between hunting and other activities. Current IHEA-USA Executive Director Steve Hall acknowledged, “We have had this powerful system in place for many years, but we need each state’s help in maintaining proper records. The clearinghouse is easy to use, and we encourage record keepers to provide updated statuses on all hunting-related incidences.”

Much has been accomplished with the NSSF and IHEA-USA partnership over the years and with the importance placed on youth participation in the future and with firearms safety being everyone’s main priority, we expect a healthy partnership for many years to come. Be sure to visit www.nssf.org to learn more and explore the many resources and safety tools NSSF provides its members and the public. We look forward to seeing all of you in the field for many, many years to come.

—Louie Stithem

Teaching Tip

This is an example of a technique that I use to teach about “chocks” in shotguns. I use a flashlight that has an adjustable lens that will go from “flood to spot.” By opening the lens to “flood” to indicate pattern of shot from a cylinder chock (the most open) to the “spot” to show pattern of shot out of full chock (the most tight). Then, go ahead and show what the chocks in between look like as you expand or reduce the light—modified, light modified, light full, etc.

I have been an instructor here in Nebraska for 42 years, since 1973. I have spent lots of time trying to find methods to show students in many different areas of learning that are difficult to explain without a visual aide.

—Louie Stithem

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- Tide Marking

Savage Arms
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- Synthetic Black Finish
- Black Synthetic Stock

Savage Arms
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Why would the Alabama Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and the Alabama Conservation Enforcement Officer Association (ACEOA) provide funds to take a few kids squirrel hunting in Coosa and Tallapoosa Counties? It may be because the members of these two organizations realize the future of hunting and wildlife conservation depends heavily on the recruitment and development of hunters. Hunting license sales have slowly declined for several years. Many people, including hunters, often do not realize their purchase of hunting and/or fishing licenses helps fund the vast majority of wildlife management in the United States. The wildlife restoration act places an excise tax on many hunting and fishing items. This money is distributed to the states for wildlife management and is based in large part on their sale of hunting and fishing licenses. This constitutes a somewhat rare user-pay situation where America’s outdoor and shooting enthusiasts actually pay their own way in that the funds they expend go directly to support their pastime. Understanding this, anyone who enjoys wildlife should invest in a hunting license whether they plan to hunt or not.

For many years the members of the Tallapoosa County Hunter Education group have mentored students in the proper handling of firearms, safe hunting practices and wildlife management. While hunter education is often a prerequisite for being able to purchase a hunting license and the program is extremely informative and beneficial, research shows youth need to have an actual hunting experience to reinforce their desire to become a hunter. With that in mind, the Tallapoosa group has hosted several youth hunts for various species.

Last December the group, in conjunction with the Chilton County Hunter Education group, hosted a squirrel hunt for youth. Gray squirrels are plentiful across the state and are a widely underutilized wildlife resource. In addition, the skills needed to successfully take squirrels are easily applicable when pursuing other game species. Many of today’s big game hunters likely began their hunting career chasing small game.

To say our hunt got off to a rocky start would be an understatement. While we had planned a brief indoor segment, the pouring rain altered our plans. Fortunately our hosts, Jerry and Genelle Brown, had just completed a new greenhouse which turned out to be just the right size for a classroom. Having taught hunter education and hosted tours and classes for many years, the Brown’s had decided to place some hay bales and tables in the greenhouse, just in case. I was sure glad this wasn’t their first rodeo. We moved the youth and their parents into our makeshift classroom and the education segment of the hunt began. As we discussed squirrel biology, behavior and hunting methods, the rain began to subside and the skies to lighten. It didn’t take long for us to understand why many people refer to a greenhouse as a hot house. The temperature quickly increased and we knew it was time to divide up and get to some
outdoor activities. However we first had to outfit the kids. I had explained with the gun deer season currently open we would be required to wear at least a hunter orange cap while hunting. Therefore everyone involved was presented with an orange cap. In addition, since you never know what the Alabama December weather may offer, we also provided all of the kids with an orange toboggan. I informed the kids that while squirrel hunting doesn’t require a lot of equipment, you do need a few pockets for some essentials. To meet this need all of the kids were given a turkey vest. The vests included a pad to sit on, orange safety cloth, a place to carry squirrels and plenty of pockets for shells and other gear. Lastly, each child was given a cap light. I explained the small light wasn’t only so they could see in dim light but just as importantly so they could be seen in dim light. It was again reiterated that a safe hunt is a fun and successful hunt.

It was now time to split into groups and begin the hands-on education. Lee Brown, a seasoned hunter education instructor with 1,000’s of students to his credit, handled firearms training using a walking trail complete with squirrel targets in addition to traditional target shooting. Instructors Ronald Brown, Doug Bice, Maron McConnell, Ricky Porch and Chris Bice provided guidance for the students who rotated through the courses. In addition, the groups were escorted on a walk through the woods where we discussed several aspects of squirrel hunting, including how to walk quietly, how to recognize squirrel nests and den trees, identification of squirrel food sources and how to estimate distance to determine whether or not a squirrel was close enough to shoot. Once all the students had passed through each station, it was time for a squirrel hunt.

Unfortunately, the weather had once again turned on us. The cloudy, windy afternoon definitely wasn’t conducive to squirrel hunting, however we persevered. Even under the adverse conditions, youth hunter Seth proved there’s always hope when he, his dad and their mentor Ronald Brown returned with three squirrels!

The weather the next Saturday was perfect and we knew the kids were in for a treat. Conservation Enforcement Officer Lt. Cliff Robinson, local TREASURE Forest landowner John Osborn and longtime squirrel hunter Ronnie Barker arrived with their Mountain curs and Feist squirrel dogs in tow. Prior to releasing his dogs, Seeker and Abby, Cliff gave a short safety talk. Let me tell you these mountain curs were all business. Within one minute the dogs were barking treed. We quickly made the short walk to the tree where both dogs were telling the news. Youth hunter Kobie loaded his shotgun and promptly knocked the squirrel out of the tree. The squirrel hit the ground; Seeker grabbed it, gave it to Cliff and was off again. This time it took maybe three minutes before both dogs were barking treed again. How could anybody not love that?

On another property, Lee Brown and Ronnie Barker were hunting with Ronnie’s dog, Dixie and youth hunter Reanna. While highly effective, it was obvious that Dixie, a Feist, wasn’t quite as high strung as the other dogs had been. However she was also all business and within a couple of minutes of our arrival she was barking treed. Reanna
quickly zeroed in and the bushy tail tumbled to the ground.

Youth hunter Luke was teamed with Mentor Doug Bice and John Osborn and his mountain cur, Patch. Their hunt started much like the others with Patch hitting the ground running and barking treed within a minute or so. The group made their way to the tree and finally eyed the squirrel that had flattened out on a high limb. As Luke was sighting in on the target, the squirrel decided it was time to move. As it ran out a limb, Luke made a great shot and the squirrel fell to the forest floor.

While these hunts were going on in Clay and Tallapoosa Counties, members of our group were also chasing squirrels in Coosa County. Mentors Blake Kelley and Milton Ellington were guiding youth hunters Grace and Josh on the Kelley property. After a brief safety overview, they were off and hunting. It wasn’t very long until the group was standing under a tree trying to locate the squirrel that Blake’s dog, Uno, assured them was there. With the bushy tail located, Grace was handed the gun and took aim. However she did not pull the trigger. Faced with the decision whether or not to kill the animal, she opted not to. This is a very important aspect of a youth hunt. The hunt is designed to educate youth concerning hunter safety, wildlife conservation and the role hunting plays in conservation. Instructors realize everyone may not want to be a hunter. An important fact not understood by many people is only 5% of the population nationwide are hunters. Many hunters are quick to dispute this since “everybody” they know hunts. They will also argue when you tell them only 5% of the population are anti-hunters. However the fact is, 90% of our population nationwide falls into the group of non-hunters. It should be obvious that the attitude of this group is very important. Fortunately the majority of non-hunters support hunting. However hunters must always remember it is often their actions that will determine whether or not non-hunters will continue to support hunting. This support is imperative for wildlife conservation to continue since funding is based on the sale of equipment and hunting licenses. While this youth hunter may or may not decide to hunt, it is important that she has been educated concerning the role of hunters and how they fund wildlife conservation.

Soon Uno was once again barking treed. Young hunter Josh took aim and fired but failed to connect. The group moved on and this same scenario was repeated a couple of times. With the young hunter dejected, the mentor took him aside and encouraged him. He also challenged him to practice to hone his shooting skills. This is another important aspect of the youth hunt. The instructors and mentors understand we aren’t dealing with seasoned veterans and shooting in front of a crowd of folks carries its own stress. Furthermore, most hunters can tell you shooting a target and shooting a critter are often two different things.
With the morning hunt completed, everyone returned to the home of Jerry and Genelle for a catered lunch. The tales of what all had occurred were enthusiastically being shared all around. Our hunters were all smiles; however theirs were no larger than those on the faces of the instructors, mentors and dog handlers. By all accounts we had a successful hunt.

This truth was reinforced that evening when I received a text with a photo of Josh holding a squirrel he had shot near his home that afternoon. That photo and later a note from his parents thanking us, lets you know the time and effort was worth it.

While all involved were well satisfied with our hunt, the true measure will be down the road when these kids make the decision of whether or not to purchase a hunting license and pursue hunting. However, even if they don’t do that, I feel confident they will support hunting and that is important.

During the course of this project, I was asked why the Alabama Chapter of the NWTF would sponsor a youth “squirrel” hunt. Shouldn’t they be sponsoring a turkey hunt? That question emphasizes a misconception among the public. Many folks feel hunters of one species are always against hunters of another species. While every hunter probably has their favorite species to hunt, the wiser ones realize we need each other. The NWTF is currently in the midst of their Save the Habitat, Save the Hunt initiative. This is an ambitious attempt to recruit new hunters, provide increased hunter access and improve acres of wildlife habitat across the country. To me, a youth squirrel hunt fits perfectly in this mission. The Alabama NWTF Board realizes the need to get kids hunting and is working toward that goal. I sincerely appreciate their strong support of this worthwhile endeavor. Of course, we did hedge our bet by giving each student a turkey vest!

Projects like this would not come to fruition without a lot of support from numerous people. It takes funding, which we graciously received from the ACEOA and NWTF. It requires a willingness on the part of volunteers to give of their time, talent, gear, property and most of all their heart. Even in the unlikely event these kids do not end up hunting and/or supporting hunting, we can say they’ve been educated. They have learned the importance of conserving our diverse natural resources and how their purchase of a hunting license contributes directly to those efforts. I sincerely thank all those who took part and I thank my department, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division for allowing myself and Lt. Cliff Robinson to take part as well. I love the quote, “No man ever stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child.”

![Thermacell® Creates a Mosquito No-Fly Zone](image-url)
Travel to Alaska’s far-flung corners is part of the job for staff with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s Hunter Information and Training (HIT) Program, but few places here—or anywhere else in the western hemisphere—are more remote than the Pribilof Islands. On May 27, HIT’s Lee Rogers and I journeyed to St. Paul Island, the largest of the Pribilofs, to conduct Hunter Education Instructor Training and a community Hunter Education course.

Located four hours by plane west of Anchorage in the Bering Sea, St. Paul Island is the Pribilof’s population center with 532 people. St. Paul Island is known as the “Galapagos of the North” since it is the breeding ground for about half of the world’s population of Northern fur seals and millions of sea birds. The Tribal Government of St. Paul Island considers firearms safety and conservation education to be high priorities, and encouraged employees Stacy Bourdukofsky and Aaron Lestenkof to become certified volunteer instructors. Supervisor Pamela Lestenkof, certified as a Hunter Education instructor in February, was instrumental in setting up this opportunity.

St. Paul Island is home to reindeer locally managed through an annual hunting season. Stacy grew up in the Pribilof Islands and became interested in hunting when her kids expressed interest in harvesting reindeer. After hunting with a friend and bagging a reindeer last year, Stacy told her kids that if they wanted to hunt with her they needed to get their Hunter Education certification. Aaron grew up on St. Paul Island and has always had an interest in firearms and hunting. As Island Sentinel for the Tribal Government, he monitors rookeries and...
marine mammal haul-out sites and is extremely knowledgeable about local wildlife and hunting culture. Aaron looks forward to sharing his firearms and hunting knowledge with future Hunter Education classes.

The Hunter Education course provided by HIT’s Rogers and Smith was conducted over two days. The classroom portion was held at the school library, and the field course and shooting proficiency at the local rock quarry. Students were quick to demonstrate the “Four Rules of Firearm Handling Safety,” their shooting skills, and safe firearms handling. The importance of never shooting at skylined animals or across roads was stressed during the field course, since the hilly terrain of St. Paul Island encourages these dangerous behaviors. The ptarmigan and snowshoe hare cut-outs were a little out of place, since neither species are found on the island, but the students did a great job discussing shoot/don’t shoot situations.

During a conversation about whether to shoot at the caribou/reindeer cut-out, it was quickly pointed out that the smaller reindeer are typically harvested on St. Paul Island because of the residents’ preference for their meat over a reindeer with large antlers. In the end, six students received their hunter education certifications and the class became the farthest west Hunter Education class taught in North America.

Ginamaria Smith is the Statewide Program Coordinator for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s Hunter Information and Training (HIT) Program.

Sts. Peter and Paul Russian Orthodox Church
Focus Group Announces Winners of 2015 IHEA-USA Heritage Hunt

The 2015 IHEA Heritage Hunt planning is in full swing as Focus Group, Inc. announces the three lucky Hunter Education students and two instructors that won this amazing all-expense paid “Hunt of a Lifetime” from their entries into the IHEA Heritage Hunt contest in Hunter’s Handbook, the official student publication of the IHEA-USA.

The hunt itself, which can be entered by any student taking (or any instructor teaching) a sanctioned International Hunter Education course in the United States, is paid for and put on by Focus Group and generously co-funded through a grant from SCI Sables. In addition, Focus Group partners like Buck Knives, Cabela’s, Federal Ammunition, Under Armour, Mossberg, HIVIZ Sights, GrovTec, and others contribute prizes for participants in the hunt, which will also be filmed by CarecoTV in San Antonio as a segment within their long-standing show Americana Outdoors airing next fall on NBC Sports Network and Pursuit.

“This hunt allows Hunter’s Handbook and its partners to not only award instructors for their hard work and dedication in the field, but also offers young hunters a unique experience that will keep them engaged in hunting while learning hands-on field safety and hunting success,” states Brian Thurston, President of Focus Group.

This year’s hunt will again be held at Hixon Land and Cattle Ranch in Cotulla, TX in mid-November. Student winners are Bailey Maier from New York, Tim Coe from Kentucky, and Madi DeGarmo from Idaho. Instructors Rick Webber of Washington and Theodore Loftis, Sr. from Tennessee are the winning volunteer hunter education trailblazers from the IHEA-USA. Congratulations to all winners! Happy hunting!

Fall Shotgun Care

With the fall season upon us, woods and fields are calling us to get out our trusty shotgun and head afield for deer, upland birds, waterfowl, and all of nature’s critters that we enjoy hunting. As you know, it is important to keep shotguns of all types clean for safe functioning. Your shotgun needs some bench time both before and after time spent afield.

1. **Use a reliable shotgun cleaner** or action cleaner. Clean trigger groups, gas ports, choke tube threading, receivers, chambers, barrels, and magazine tubes. A solid cleaner, like the Remington Shotgun Cleaner, simply dissolves powder residue, fouled lubricants, burnt carbon deposits and gunk. Action Cleaner performs mostly the same function, yet quickly dries and leaves no residue.

2. **Use a good lubricant** after cleaning to keep the firearm functioning. Remington Drilube is formulated for superior lubricity without leaving any dust-collecting residue behind, and works great in sub-zero temperatures that can be encountered while hunting.

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Announcing NSSF’s First Shots® 10 Years and 10 Prizes Sweepstakes!

To celebrate its milestone tenth anniversary, the National Shooting Sports Foundation’s highly successful First Shots program is excited to announce its “10 Years & 10 Prizes Sweepstakes.” Sweepstakes are open to first-time shooters and their mentors. It’s easy to enter. Simply have your students submit a favorite photo of them with their first shot to firstshots.org. You’ll have a chance to win the Grand Prize of an all-expense paid five-day trip to train at the famous Gunsite Academy, average retail value (ARV) $6,000, plus 10 other fabulous prizes including firearms packages from Smith & Wesson (ARV $1,400), SIG SAUER (ARV $1,370) and others.

So what are you waiting for? Take those first shots pictures and enter now at firstshots.org! The sweepstakes ends December 15, 2015, and NSSF will contact the lucky winners via a special Christmas morning phone call.

NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN—Sweepstakes only open to legal U.S. residents residing in the 50 United States and D.C. age 21 years or older at time of entry. Void outside the 50 United States and D.C. and where prohibited or restricted by law or by NSSF. Odds of winning a prize depend on number of eligible entries received by NSSF.

*For a complete prize list and Sweepstakes rules, visit online at http://nssf.org/share/PDF/TermsAndConditions/FirstShots10Anniversary.pdf.

About NSSF®
The National Shooting Sports Foundation® is the trade association for the firearms industry. Its mission is to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. Formed in 1961, NSSF has a membership of more than 12,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, sportsman’s organizations and publications. For more information, visit www.nssf.org.

Please Remember the IHEA-USA When Writing Your Will

As you know, the International Hunter Education Association – United States of America has a commitment to preserving and protecting our right to hunt as well as our hunting heritage. By providing for the IHEA-USA in your will or trust you will help to ensure that future generations will get to experience the same kind of outdoor experiences that you hold so dearly. Please read this testimonial:

“The mission of the International Hunter Education Association – United States of America is so pure that for those of us that hunt and believe in education first and legislation last, I personally have included in my Last Will and Testament 1/2 of my estate be awarded to the IHEA-USA. Hunting for me has been one of life’s great disciplines and made me a better person in so many ways. Having an understanding of our connection with the land, how we both collectively and individually influence our natural resources and the opportunity to actively participate in the management of those resources is key to the future of our hunting heritage.” –Tim Lawhern

You can set aside:

- A specific dollar amount
- A percentage of your estate’s value
- All or part of the remainder of your estate in your will or trust
- All or part of the proceeds of a Life Insurance policy or Retirement Plan

All donations received from this program will be deposited into our Planned Giving Endowment and will be utilized for long-term funding of the organization. The interest earned from this Endowment will be used for general operations for the IHEA-USA.

We urge you to consult your attorney in preparing your will or trust and hope that the following language will be helpful in providing a bequest to IHEA-USA:

“I give, devise and bequeath ___% of what remains of my estate (or $_______) to the International Hunter Education Association – United States of America (Tax ID # 37-1145157), a charitable corporation presently having offices at 800 East 73rd Avenue, Unit 2, Denver, CO 80229”

IHEA-USA is a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Colorado. Bequests of any size are gratefully accepted and sincerely appreciated. However, while IHEA-USA can accept gifts of land, we are not in a position to hold property for any reason. Any land given outright or bequeathed to IHEA-USA will be immediately sold. The proceeds of which will be used to fund our programs.
Volunteering as a hunter education instructor is a personal commitment and sometimes challenging. Obtaining quality hunter safety and educational materials shouldn’t be. The National Shooting Sports Foundation® has been supporting hunter education instructors for more than 50 years.

A longtime supporter of the International Hunter Education Association, NSSF has been in the forefront of developing multimedia hunter safety and education materials. We provide printed and electronic materials for volunteer instructors—most of which is free. And when your students graduate and are looking for places to hunt or for additional information to develop their skills and knowledge, the answers are simply a click away!

Log on to nssf.org and order your materials today. All the help you need is at your fingertips.

NSSF.ORG/SAFETY
How did our moral compass develop? After all, whether we call it ethics, morality, right versus wrong, character, or a code we live by, aren’t we really talking about our moral compass? You know, that code of conduct inside of us that guides our every decision. Many of our parents clearly taught us right from wrong. Sometimes with a gentle hand, and other times perhaps not so gently. We were generally praised when we did well, and punished when we did wrong. In school, our teachers reinforced our parent’s efforts. Perhaps a sports coach further emphasized right from wrong by teaching us about sportsmanship. We learned life lessons about integrity, humility, generosity, kindness and many other aspects of our character. Over time, we developed our own internal code of conduct, or moral compass, that we live by. Now we are role models for the next generation of hunters.

So, as a role model, what are some of the traits we need to demonstrate to ensure the next generation of hunters develops a clear moral compass?

First, as I learned from Dad when I was just a kid, we should always do what is right even when no one is looking. Don’t take that shot at a trophy deer when you know the range is outside your personal ability. Make sure your rifle is properly sighted in and you have prepared yourself for hunting by adequate practice prior to going afield. Show respect for others by covering up that field dressed deer carcass in your truck bed. Always pick up your trash and take it out of the woods with you. Respect private land boundaries and private landowners’ property rights. Take the time to help new hunters, even if it curtails your own hunting experience. We need to grow the hunter population, but even more important, we need to be ethical role models for new hunters.

Always take the time to explain to new hunters the difference between hunting and killing. We are hunters and predators. We harvest game to eat. We do so by killing. There is a natural relationship and balance between predator and prey. We respect the game we kill, and new hunters need to see and learn that harvesting without consumption is waste. Take the time to explain why harvesting game is necessary, and how our hunting supports conservation. New hunters need to know that by respecting seasons and limits, purchasing hunting licenses and tags, and paying federal excise taxes on our equipment and ammunition, we ensure the future of wildlife and habitat. Make sure new hunters realize our efforts and money directly benefits the survival of wildlife, both hunted and non-hunted. Instill a sense of pride in the new hunter that their moral compass and ethical hunting practices are directly responsible for millions of acres of wildlife habitat that can be enjoyed by everyone, whether they hunt or not. Also point out the many contributions hunters, and hunting, provide to our local communities. Our predation as hunters provides hundreds of thousands of pounds of venison annually in support of Hunter’s for the Hungry. Many underprivileged families and individuals eat well because of hunter efforts.

Finally, your moral compass and code of conduct is personal, enforced by you on you. What is ethical and legal may vary from state to state, so hunters will all have varying personal codes of conduct. For example, do you think it is ethical to hunt deer with bait? How about driving deer with dogs? How do you feel about aerial hunting? Remember that, as you serve as a role model for new hunters, many of them will imprint your moral compass on themselves. Ensure they understand that hunting laws vary across the country. Accordingly, what is ethical in one area may not be in another. New hunters need to be adaptable and understanding of differing hunting practices, while still focusing on the principles of fair chase and respect for what we hunt. Encourage new hunters, as they learn and grow, to become ethical role models in their own right. What better way to start than to volunteer as a hunter education instructor in your own local community?
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6. special early bird invitations to ihea-usa events (www.ihea.com).
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8. liability insurance—individual memberships of the ihea-usa are provided with volunteer liability insurance up to $1,000,000 per occurrence. this policy provides protection for a bodily injury or a property damage liability claim arising out of the performance of the registered volunteers' duties. applicable to usa only.

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• $100 cabela's gift certificate
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membership rewards are subject to change.
Each hunter, new and seasoned, may at some time come in contact with a law enforcement officer. The law enforcement officer could be from the DNR or could be other law officers (town, city, county or state).

Treat every law officer with respect; in most cases they may not know you but will treat you the same way they are treated.

If you are in your hunting spot and a DNR officer approaches you, you need to follow these steps:

1. **Point your firearm** in a safe direction. This way the DNR officer and others will not be in danger if the firearm goes off.
2. **Place the firearm** on “safe,” unload it, then leave the action open.
3. **Wait for instructions** from the DNR officer and do what they say. They may just want to see if you have your hunting permit, make sure you are not poaching, that you are using the correct ammo or firearm or they may just want to see how things are going and ask you questions.
4. **Do not reload** until the DNR officer has left or has said that you may reload and return to your hunt.

Remember, the DNR officer is not there to harass you. They are there to help and protect you and the wildlife and help keep you from making any mistakes while out in the field. In the fall, there are more firearms being transported to and from home to shooting ranges and hunting locations.

If you are stopped and then approached...
by any law officer while you have your firearm out or while transporting them, follow these steps:

1. **Good firearm handling**—your ammo should always be located away from the firearm until you get to your location.

2. **Your firearm** should be in a case with the action open or the firearm broken down, whichever your state requirement is.

3. **It is not recommended** that you place your firearm in a window gun rack because it may be stolen or might provoke anti-hunters or anti-gun groups.

4. **If you are approached** or stopped by any law enforcement officers, do not make any fast movement, let them know that you have a firearm and have a permit.

5. **Wait for the officer** to tell you what to do next. Remember, they do not know you, or if your firearm is loaded or not. Let them be in charge and follow everything they tell you.

Often, calls originate as “Suspicious Person” with a gun or reported as “Trespassing.” The majority of hunters are legal, however they also have to be reminded there are poachers and those who hunt illegally, and both DNR and local police encounter these situations.

So, understand that although you may be legal, the officer may be in the process of determining everything and may not have all the information they need to make an immediate determination. Patience is paramount in these situations. It is also a good idea for the hunter to advise the officer if they are alone or not. If they happen to park at the edge of a woods or similar area, it’s never a bad idea to leave a visible note on the dashboard or side window, leaving their name, phone number and some sort of statement that they are in the area hunting. Often officers encounter a vehicle before they encounter the hunter and if the officer sees the note with a phone number, they may try to call in order to avoid what has the potential of being an uncomfortable encounter.

Law officers are there to protect you, your family and neighbors from danger. They are not there to harass and disrespect you, so treat them the same way that you would want to be treated.
In appreciation of outstanding and uniquely committed volunteer efforts of Hunter Education instructors around the United States, Gallery of Guns is excited to recognize the first two of a new set of six instructors for 2015 crowned Champions of Hunter Education for their outstanding work in the Hunter Education field.

These instructors break the confines of average teaching, giving selflessly to the future of hunting and setting standards in their state for safe and ethical hunting teachings, and recruitment and retention of thousands of students.

Benedick Rockers of Greeley, Kansas

Benedick Rockers understands commitment to the sport that he so loves. Serving as a Hunter Ed area coordinator and certified Kansas Hunter Education instructor for 38 years, Ben has actively recruited and trained many new instructors from his area, and was selected as the Kansas Region 5 Instructor of the Year in 2004 and again in 2014. It is not only his dedication to hunting and hunter education that has been demonstrated many times over the years, but also to that of his wife Katie. In 2011, they were jointly inducted into the Kansas Hunter Education Instruction Association Hall of Fame.

Always innovative in approaching hunter education throughout the years, Ben also incorporated multiple live-fire opportunities for his students using muzzleloaders, shot, rifle, archery and pellet guns as well as developed a comprehensive trail walk that provides students with a detailed look at hunting during the class.

Ben is also happy to take his passion and activate it in the field a step deeper. Approximately 12 years ago, Ben determined that there was too much information to pack into the basic class, so he started an annual advanced HE class in conjunction with a youth/novice pheasant hunt at the family farm in Greeley. With many volunteers from the area, local game wardens, and assistance from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, this has grown into a tremendously successful event. Students are provided breakfast and training in advanced hunting skills and disciplines. The hunt itself is complete with trained hunting dogs on a
local controlled hunting area, and incorporates all aspects of the harvest culminating with the students returning from the hunt to clean their birds, gear, prep the birds for cooking, and actually finishes off with a meal containing their own harvest. For many, it is the first wild game they have experienced. Attendance at this event has grown to over 135 participants a year and has included soldiers from the Wounded Warrior Project, Boy Scouts, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, churches and local schools.

Ben and Katie have been married for 33 years and raised a family of hunter education instructors. At this time, three of their four children are certified instructors and work with their parents to provide classes.

Mike Guillette of Theodore, AL

An avid outdoorsman and lover of hunting, Mike Guillette received his hunter education certification in 2005. Having taught over 100 classes personally, Mike also provides guidance for other instructors in Mobile County, Alabama. Mike and his team conduct 10-12 hunter education classes each year, effectively coordinates, and maintains great relationships with local businesses to provide locations to host classes throughout Mobile County.

Dedicated to introducing new people to the outdoors, Mike actively volunteers at the biannual Becoming an Outdoorswoman program where he teaches the “From Field to Table” class, he serves as a guide for the squirrel hunt in the fall, and Mike takes time to donate and prepare food for the wild game tasting. Not only is Mike a dedicated Hunter Education instructor, he is also a man that genuinely cares about his community and the future of hunting and is willing to invest his personal time and money into the education of our sport.

Mike has been key in the success of the shooting sports program for the City of Orange Beach, Alabama. Few match his level of dedication and enthusiasm in the startup of such a complicated program. He has spent countless hours working in the planning phase alone. This includes taking personal time from work to drive over and work as a primary instructor at the events. He contributes all of this time at his own expense. Not only that, but Mike often brings his own personal firearms and ammunition to the events to make sure all of the attending youth enjoy plenty of opportunities to shoot. First to arrive and the last to leave, Mike is the driver of success for these events.

Mike has also been instrumental to the success of Alabama youth dove hunts. In all of these hunts, Mike also steps up and serves as a mentor to one or more kids that do not have parents that hunt. He takes the kids under his supervision and stands with them to ensure they have the best possible experience, and a safe enjoyable hunt.

The state of Alabama has one of the best hunter safety records, and Mike’s leadership is partly responsible for that accomplishment. He is more than worthy to be awarded a Champion of Hunter Education.

SHOOTING TIP #10:

Good shooting form is every bit as important as equipment modifications in managing recoil. Good form would include proper foot position and body position relative to the break point, a slight forward lean, placing most of your body weight on your forward foot and keeping your cheek tight to the stock until you see the target break. Hand placement and the amount of grip also play an important role in recoil management.

While every shotgunner has 180° of swing, it’s worth noting that not all of it is good. On the extreme ends of a shooter’s swing, back tension has a pronounced effect on how the barrel travels. As muscles in the lower back flex to accommodate movement, they force the barrel downward in a twisting motion. The result is often called “rainbow swing.” For this reason, it is important to identify the “sweet spot” of your swing and preposition yourself so that you’ll be breaking the clay within that “sweet spot.”

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Properly setting the binoculars for your own eyes can really enhance the effectiveness of a binocular. It’s pretty easy, too. First, set the eye relief (the distance from your eyes to the ocular lens). This is done with the eyecups. For eyeglass wearers, it is recommended that you twist in the eyecups—the opposite is true for non-eyeglass wearers… twist out. In most cases there will be a couple of positions to choose from. First, pick an object roughly ten to 20 yards away. Then, close your right eye and use the center focus wheel to get the image crisp and clear. While looking at the exact same object, close your left eye and use the diopter setting to focus your right eye. The diopter is located around the ocular lens of the right eye or incorporated into the center focus wheel. In some cases, it can be found in front of the binocular hinge near the objective lens. After the diopter is adjusted, the binoculars are now exactly fit for your personal eyes for depth-of-field.

Get a Great Deal on ShotLock Shotgun Locks While Helping Out the IHEA-USA

Beginning October 15th, ShotLock is offering their shotgun locks model 200M and 200E at only $99.00 plus shipping. With every sale, ShotLock will also donate $5 to the IHEA-USA, providing critical funding to our organization. Promotion will end on December 15th.

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All of us want to be successful when trying something new... and when teaching something new to someone else. It comes as no surprise that young people who pick up a bow for the first time want to be successful in hitting a target. The Daisy Youth Archery equipment line, including an entry-level, ambidextrous, youth-sized longbow, compound bow and crossbow, have features that will increase the odds that young students will be initially successful in hitting the target, and which will enhance your success as an instructor.

We put the Daisy equipment to the test with a couple of young shooters at an outdoor range, first ensuring that the area behind the targets and behind the entire range couldn’t be entered from the back or the sides. We used an 8-foot table to lay out our equipment and a line on the ground to define our shooting point. Many school archery programs begin shooting at a distance of 15 to 21 feet, so our foam block target was 15 feet from the shooting line.

After everyone put on shooting glasses, young students were aided with proper shooting position: legs, hips and torso perpendicular to the target and head and arms turned toward the target.

We let students get the feel of pulling back the string to an anchor point without loading an arrow or dry firing the compound bow. The anchor point is, typically, the corner of the mouth of the archer on the side of the hand drawing back the string. To accommodate one female shooter, we made some easy adjustments to the cams on the compound bow to tailor the draw length and weight to her stature.

Arrows were easily inserted through the shoot-thru riser and nocked onto the string between the top and second finger roller with the odd-colored fletching down. The shoot-thru riser made the arrow easier to control compared to an arrow setting on a side rest, and the V-shaped rest in the shoot-thru riser always re-centered the arrow when the bow was tilted and then righted.

We had our students loosely place their fingers on the rollers with the pointer finger above the nock of the arrow and the middle and third finger below the nock of the arrow on the other two rollers. The index, middle and third fingers engaged the rollers at the first joint of those fingers without actually gripping the rollers.

Once comfortable, we allowed the student to draw back the rollers of the string to the anchor point. With practice, students found that they were equally comfortable using the adjustable sight to position shots near the center of the target or instinctively looking down the length of the arrow to acquire the target.

An older student was an avid rifle shooter, and adapted quickly to the crossbow which made our job of teaching how to mount the crossbow to the pocket of the shoulder, sight picture, breath control and trigger squeeze a snap. He eagerly mastered shooting, and was soon even cocking the crossbow himself by putting one foot in the stirrup on the ground, and pulling up evenly on the string using both hands. Inserting the tip of a bolt through the front sight area of the crossbow with the odd-color fletching down and in the flight groove, the crossbow was easily loaded.

With the crossbow still ON SAFE and his finger off the trigger, he first acquired his target by lining up the front and rear iron sights—just like a rifle. Nudging the safety to the off position and keeping all fingers and thumbs below the red finger guard, he squeezed off his first shot...the first of many in a tight group.

Becoming an accomplished archer with a longbow, a compound bow or a crossbow takes practice. So does becoming a successful archery instructor. The Daisy Youth Archery line will help both student and instructor be successful...the first time.
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Carrying your firearm safely is much simpler now than it was 200 years ago. It’s also much more comfortable. In the 21st century, there are a variety of slings on the market with a variety of functions, and the ways to connect your sling to your firearm have never been easier.

All slings connect to the rifle through a set of swivels that attach to studs on the firearm. A well-designed swivel will not rust, break, or squeak. It should be designed with close tolerances assuring a snug, solid fit, making a minimum of noise. Some are non-detachable, but the most versatile swivels to use on the hunt are removable so that the sling can be easily removed altogether or rearranged for a new function.

For the minimalist, a simple mountaineer or utility sling will get the job done, but let’s face it—most of us would appreciate some comfort. Pretty popular and very comfortable is the neoprene sling. Made with soft, flexible neoprene fabric, this sling reduces perceived weight of the firearm by more evenly distributing the weight across the breadth of its fabric. It also forms well to the shoulder, not binding or cutting off circulation like a more narrow nylon sling can.

Planning on a trek? For safety and convenience, check out the GrovTec Backpack sling. Uniquely designed, it allows you to work hands-free when climbing up rough terrain or riding an ATV. With even distribution of rifle weight across both shoulders, the backpack sling is great because not only is it practical, but it also keeps your gun pointed in a safe direction the entire time you are walking.

Sling or no sling—stay safe out there, and always keep your gun pointed away from anything that you don’t want to destroy.

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EXCEPT THIS.

The NEW Mission® Craze® II

The redesigned Craze® II is lighter, more ergonomic, and as always, adjustable to fit virtually anyone, any age. This means you won't have to reach for your wallet everytime your child grows an inch. So go ahead kids... Grow on!

MISSION

missionarchery.com
New Products for Instructors

New Classic Look for the Ruger American Rimfire®

Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc. is excited to introduce the Ruger American Rimfire® rifle with wood stock. In response to customer requests, this new model brings an exciting variation to an already popular rifle line. The stock is made from a hardwood blank in Newport, NH and mated to the popular .22 LR bolt-action in Mayodan, NC, resulting in a rifle with classic good looks and modern performance.

Ruger engineers designed this wood stock to host the same patent-pending Power Bedding® integral bedding block system and free-floated barrel that have made the Ruger American Rimfire rifle family outstandingly accurate.

The attractive wood stock features front and rear sling swivel studs, a metal trigger guard, checkering on the grip and forend, and a rubber butt pad to make for a comfortable 13.75” length of pull.

For more information on the Ruger American Rimfire rifle with wood stock, visit Ruger.com or check out Facebook.com/Ruger.

Check out the Winchester® Deer Season XP™ for your Upcoming Hunt

As a deer hunter, you can face many unique challenges leading up to when you pull the trigger. Winchester Ammunition’s Deer Season XP can help you overcome them. It’s the first and only Winchester bullet designed specifically for deer.

Offering a bigger tip for bigger impact, this bullet features a large-tip design that expands immediately on impact to deliver the energy you need for solid knockdown power. Available
Secure Your Firearms with New Electromechanical Locks from ShotLock

Concerned with keeping your firearms safe but handy? Check out the new electromechanical lock from ShotLock—the model 200E as an option.

The 200E follows the recently-launched 200M mechanical version, which was released in November 2014 for both the handgun and the shotgun models. Much like the 200M, the 200E boasts additional key features including: a key override (with three keys provided), a tamper-proof lock clutch mechanism, increased 10-digit combinations (1.2 million), reprogrammable operation directly from the face of the lock, sleek and efficient five-button function, low battery indicator and an emergency battery backup feature which can be used to temporarily power the unit back on, allowing you to use your combination to open the ShotLock and change the internal batteries in case you ignored its warnings.

The complete 200E and M Series of ShotLock products are available at a dealer near you. For more information on all ShotLock or TruckVault products, visit them online at: www.shotlock.com or www.truckvault.com

Look for the Deer Season XPTM at your local dealer or learn more at www.winchester.com.
Instructor Discount Corner

ThermaCELL Reminds Instructors that There Are Awesome Rebates on a Number of Products

In constant appreciation for all that Hunter Education instructors do to contribute to safe and successful hunting, ThermaCELL offers discounts not only on its insect repellent devices preventing West Nile and other mosquito-borne diseases, but also on their heated insoles and new Heat Pack hand and body warmers.

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Connect to Your Tree

Although September was Treestand Awareness Month, Hunter Safety System wants to remind instructors that they believe in what you do, and sincerely appreciate the impact that you have on Hunter Safety and the industry. Please feel free to reach out to them for discounts on their products at 877-296-3528. They care about your safety in the field.

Discounts are also available from these partners:

For more information go to: www.ihea-usa.com/instructors/special-offers-for-instructors

Instructor Access for IHEA-USA Website

Hunter Education Instructors have the opportunity to purchase many items at a discounted rate on the "Special Offers" section of the IHEA-USA website! For your exclusive access go to: www.ihea-usa.com/instructors/special-offers-for-instructors. Just click on the company hyperlink you are interested in and, when prompted, enter "gohunt" as your password. The password has no space and is all lowercase.
RUGER® 10/22 TAKEDOWN

CONVENIENT FOR STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION

The Ruger® 10/22 Takedown® combines all of the features and functionality of the 10/22® rifle, with the ability to easily separate the barrel/forend and action/buttstock for convenient storage and transportation. The simple reassembly of the barrel and action yields a rock-solid return to zero for consistent, reliable performance. Packed in a rugged, ballistic nylon case (included), the Ruger® 10/22 Takedown® makes it easy to keep America's favorite rimfire rifle by your side.

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- Hot Tub Sonic Cleaner™
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