

IHEA-USA Publications

IHEA-USA renewed their twenty-four-year partnership with Focus Group Inc., who produces the official publications—the IHEA-USA Hunter & Shooting Sports



IHEA-USA HERITAGE HUNT – Hixon Land & Cattle, Cotulla, Texas—November 2017

Education Journal, a quarterly publication designed and distributed to over 55,000 hunter education instructors, and Hunter's Handbook, a publication distributed to over 615,000 students and families on an annual basis.

2017 International Hunter Education Association-USA ANNUAL REPORT

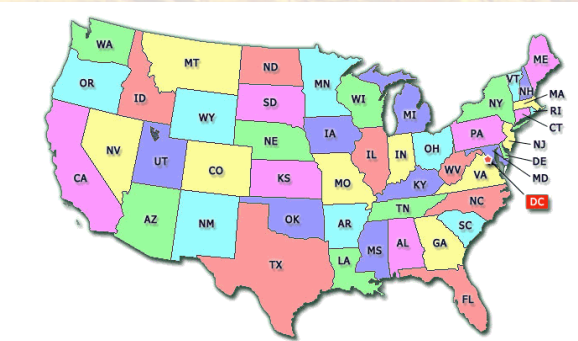


MISSION

The mission of the IHEA is to continue the heritage of hunting worldwide by developing safe, responsible, knowledgeable, and involved hunters.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in IHEA-USA is comprised of state hunter education administrators and staff that manage hunter education programs throughout the fifty United States and beyond. Perhaps more importantly, the organization is comprised of hunter education instructors—the over 55,000 men and women, most of whom are VOLUNTEERS, who trained over 615,000 students this past year.

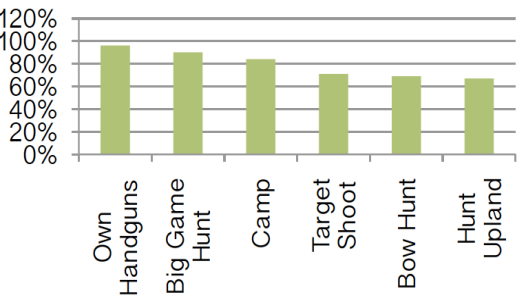


MEMBER & PARTNER BENEFITS

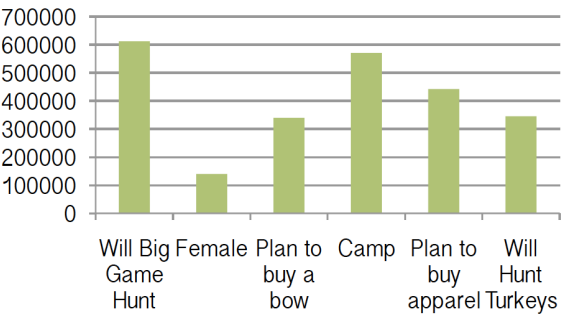
Benefits & Services to IHEA-USA Members, Industry, and Conservation Partners include:

- “One voice” with national media, industry, and conservation partners
- National research, surveys, and services to state hunter education programs (e.g. hunting incident data, profile data, etc.)
- National training opportunities (e.g. Administrator and Incident Academies; Peer Reviews; etc.)
- National publications and publicity, marketing and communications (e.g. Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal; Hunter's Handbook; IHEA-USA Weekly News Briefs, Facebook®, Twitter®; exhibits, radio shows, newspapers, advertising)
- National leadership (e.g. standards, reciprocity, education resources)
- Professional collaboration on hunting and hunter education issues
- National recognition of administrators, instructors and students (e.g. awards, promotions, industry partnerships)
- Partnering Hunter Education with the following groups that work on behalf of conservation organizations and sporting arms and ammunition/outdoor industries:
 - ❑ Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
 - ❑ Council to Advance Hunting & Shooting Sports
 - ❑ National Shooting Sports Foundation and Archery Trade Association
 - ❑ Representation on IHEA (World) Organization and international representation on behalf of U.S.A.

Hunter Education Instructors



Hunter Education Students



New Executive Director

A nationwide search was conducted in late 2016 and into 2017 in search of a new leader of the organization. In February the IHEA-USA Board of Directors, with help from AFWA and the USFWS, hired Brad Heidel as the new Executive Director. Heidel brings over 20 years of experience in the non-profit wildlife conservation world.

For more information contact:

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Executive Director
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2017 IHEA-USA Highlights

Hunter Incident Academies

Two IHEA-USA Hunter Incident Academies were held this past year, one in Florida and one in Missouri. Eighty Wildlife Law Enforcement officers and 12 volunteer instructors participated in advanced hunting incident investigative training. These officers then go on to train others in their departments on these advanced techniques and help IHEA-USA better understand the ever-changing needs of what needs to be taught to hunter education students.



Standards & Evaluation

Online learning is continuing to grow, and IHEA-USA is there to ensure that online course providers meet the standards set by the 50 states. A third-party review process is now in place to ensure that content, delivery, and evaluation standards are met. This process benefits state administrators, volunteers, and most importantly, students.

2017 also saw the development and addition of bowhunting standards. These standards directly address bowhunting safety issues and education, and will ensure new bowhunters will be better educated when taking the field, and safer as well.

Hunter Orange Statement

With several states introducing optional “safety” colors such as pink, IHEA-USA was asked for a formal statement on Hunter Orange. Absent of any scientific evidence to the contrary, the IHEA-USA reaffirms our recommendation that Hunter Orange is the most effective color to be worn by hunters in the field to prevent hunting incidents.

Additionally, no qualitative or quantitative research has been conducted to document the influence, positive or negative, of hunter safety color choice on the recruitment, retention, or reactivation of new or existing hunters. Therefore, IHEA-USA recommends that hunter safety color requirements be established solely on the basis of detectability and visibility of a color in natural environments by human observers.



Annual Conference and Business Meeting

The state of Oregon hosted the annual gathering of State Administrators, Volunteer Instructors, USFWS professionals, and Industry leaders. For four intense days, these leaders trained, learned, and provided new standards and guidance to help insure that hunting continues to be one of the safest activities now and into the future.



Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports

Hunter education certification is the bridge that brings those who wish to become hunters into the hunting world. CAHSS understands the role IHEA-USA plays in the R3 process and voted the IHEA-USA Executive Director a permanent place on their Board of Directors.



Davidson's Gallery of Guns—“Champions of Hunter Education”

Davidson's Gallery of Guns recognized instructors in 2017 in issues of the Hunter & Shooting Sports Education Journal. CHAMPIONS OF HUNTER EDUCATION is a program that enhances the visibility of hunter education throughout North America. Two \$2,500 Student Essay scholarships were also made available for students writing about what hunter education means to the future of hunting and the shooting sports. This year's winners were Brett Garamendi from Idaho, and McKinley Grooms from South Carolina.



Research

CABELA'S OUTDOOR FUND – The Outdoor Fund granted IHEA-USA \$18,000 to conduct important research on the value and effectiveness of Internet and Field Coursework in Hunter Education. The Grant will drive efforts to enhance hunter education nationally and make hunter education more visible and available to the public. Phase one of this project has been completed and the format for the study has been created. With more funding, 2018 should begin the practical phase of this study.

