

# IHEA-USA EDUCATION STANDARDS

## BOWHUNTER EDUCATION





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Bowhunter Education Curriculum	3.3
Bowhunter Education Overview	3.4
Equipment & Accessories	3.6
Bowhunting Safety	3.12
Bow Shooting Skills, Techniques & Preparation	3.17
Bowhunting Responsibilities & Game Recovery	3.21

---

Cover photo courtesy of Mossy Oak

**Write**

PO Box 1320  
Lolo, MT 59847

**Call**

303.430.7233

**Email**

[mgr@ihea-usa.org](mailto:mgr@ihea-usa.org)

# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Core Curriculum

Course content designed for students to be instructed and assessed according to performance-based learning objectives related to safe, legal, and responsible bowhunting.

### Awareness

---

Bow Hunter Education Overview – Justification/Purpose, Challenges, Motivations & Role in Wildlife Conservation

### Safety

---

Bow Hunting & Archery Incidents

Safe Handling of Bows/Arrows

Tree Stand Safety

Outdoor Safety

Aerial Targets – Considerations

### Equipment & Accessories

---

Basic Equipment- Bow & Arrows

Matching Bows with Arrows

Basic Equipment -Accessories

### Bow Shooting & Techniques

---

Shooting Skills

Taking a Good Shot

Preparation & Techniques

### Responsibility & Game Recovery

---

Bow Hunting Regulations

Basic Responsibilities

Confidence & Risks

Game Recovery

Care of Game

# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Bow Hunter Education Overview

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Justification	Why Bow Hunter Education is Important	Identify the purpose and importance of Bow Hunter Education.	<p>The purpose of Bow Hunter Education is to train safe, responsible and law abiding bow hunters. Bow Hunter Education is important because it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decreases archery and bow hunting incidents.</li> <li>Promotes responsible bow hunter behavior, including compliance with hunting laws and regulations.</li> <li>Helps students identify specialized equipment, considerations and techniques to become effective and responsible bowhunters.</li> <li>Helps bowhunters recognize their limitations with bowhunting equipment and identify ways to improve their bow shooting skills such as continual practice.</li> <li>Recognize that before bow hunter education, formal opportunities to learn special knowledge and skills required for bowhunting were rare.</li> </ul>	Awareness
Challenge	Bow Hunting Challenges	Distinguish the differences in hunting with a bow from hunting with a firearm.	<p>Four (4) ways bow hunting differs from hunting with a firearm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Source of power is from bending the limbs of the bow, rather than from gunpowder.</li> <li>Bow hunter's body takes the place of a stock in shooting bows without stocks or cocking devices.</li> <li>Bowhunters must get closer to the game.</li> <li>Bow hunting relies on cutting and bleeding to produce humane kills, rather than shock.</li> </ul>	Awareness
Motivation	Bow Hunting Motivations	Describe why you and others want to bow hunt.	<p>Motivations to bow hunt include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Added challenge.</li> <li>Extended seasons.</li> <li>Opportunity to get closer to game.</li> <li>Getting outdoors at different times of the year.</li> <li>Comradery with bow hunting family and friends.</li> <li>Reduced noise, increased stealth required.</li> </ul>	Awareness

# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Bow Hunter Education Overview (Cont.)

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Role in Wildlife Conservation	Conservation funding for wildlife management, habitat management and Bow Hunter Education	Describe how license fees and excise taxes support wildlife conservation and hunter education.	Wildlife management is funded largely by users who directly benefit from the resource. Two primary funding sources for wildlife management are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Excise taxes on bow hunting/archery equipment, hunting equipment and ammunition (REF: 1937 Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act).</li><li>Revenue from state natural resource agencies, including hunting and bow hunting license fees.</li></ul>	Awareness

Photo courtesy of Mossy Oak



# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Equipment & Accessories

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Basic equipment -bows and arrows	Bow types/ materials	Identify common types of bows, components and characteristics of each type.	<p>Four type of bows include bows from two categories: Vertical (3) and Horizontal (1):</p> <p>Vertical bows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longbow</li> <li>• Recurve</li> <li>• Compound</li> </ul> <p>Horizontal bow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crossbow</li> </ul> <p>Vertical bows use the bow hunter's body as a drawing/cocking and shooting platform. Crossbows use a firearm-style stock as a drawing/cocking and shooting platform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longbows and recurves have a pair of simple limbs connected by a string and the force required to pull the string increases with the distance pulled.</li> <li>• Compound bows have eccentric wheels or cams connected to the limbs, cables, and string which provide a reduction in the force required to hold the string at full draw.</li> <li>• Crossbows have recurve or straight limbs with or without wheels and hold the string at full draw until released by a trigger-type mechanism.</li> <li>• All bows have limbs, strings/cables, grip area, handle/riser area, and sight area.</li> <li>• Longbows and recurve bows are generally made of wood. Many times recurve limbs will be of a fiberglass/wood composite. Recurve handles may also be metal. Compound bows and crossbows usually have handles/stocks made of metal and limbs made of carbon/polymer composite materials.</li> </ul>	Safety and responsibility



# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Equipment & Accessories (Cont.)

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Basic equipment -bows and arrows	Arrow types/ materials Arrow points types/ uses	Identify and describe components of a finished arrow, uses of each component, and types of arrow points used in shooting/ hunting.	<p>All finished arrows have 4 distinct parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shaft</li> <li>• Fletching</li> <li>• Nock</li> <li>• Point</li> </ul> <p>The length, flexibility (spine), and physical weight of a finished arrow is matched both to the shooter and the bow being shot.</p>	Safety and responsibility
			<p>Shafts - may be wood, tubular aluminum, tubular carbon fiber, tubular fiberglass, solid fiberglass, or a combination of aluminum and carbon fiber.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood - Primarily used by recurve or longbow archers or as special recreational shafts (flu-flu arrows for flight shooting). Not as durable or exact as other materials and rarely used when shooting high poundage modern equipment.</li> <li>• Tubular aluminum - Thickness and diameter matched to bow weight is critical for good arrow flight and bow shooting safety. Commercially prepared charts by shaft manufacturers are available and necessary to determine correct size.</li> <li>• Tubular carbon fiber - Smaller in diameter and lighter weight than aluminum shafts of corresponding strength. Very durable and popular for bow hunting. Commercially prepared charts by shaft manufacturers are available and necessary to determine correct size.</li> <li>• Tubular fiberglass - Inexpensive and not made to high exactness. Manufactured for use with light weight recreational bows.</li> <li>• Solid fiberglass - Commonly used for bow fishing. Very durable for rough shooting conditions (rocks and underwater).</li> <li>• Combination carbon fiber and aluminum- Popular bow hunting shaft due to durability and precision. Commercially prepared charts by shaft manufacturers are available and necessary to determine correct size.</li> </ul>	

# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Equipment & Accessories (Cont.)

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
			<p>Fletching - may be made of plastic or feathers and is attached to the opposite end of the arrow from the point. Fletching assists in stabilizing arrow flight and is available in a variety of lengths and heights. Generally 4-5 inch length fletch is recommended with the fletching height profile on the arrow to meet or exceed the cutting diameter of the broadhead used. Shorter length fletch is possible depending on arrow shaft composition, bow weight, and grain weight of point. Fletching may be arranged on the arrow in a variety of configurations and generally adhered to the shaft with adhesive. Common configurations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offset - Most common with three (3) fletch adhered to shaft symmetrically 120 degrees apart. Archer preference for four (4) fletch are situated 90 degrees apart. Ends of either fletch configuration are offset 1.5-2.5 degrees.</li> <li>• Helical - Popular configuration used for both bow hunting and target shooting. For greater arrow spin and in-flight stabilization, fletch is adhered to shaft at a 3 degree angle and at a slight angle to the axis of the shaft.</li> <li>• Flu-Flu - Large or uncut feathers adhered around the shaft. Fletching this large will slow down arrow speed due to the increased resistance of oversized fletch. Many times these are used for aerial games and small game.</li> </ul>	
			<p>Nock - The part of the arrow which attaches to the bow string. This point on the bowstring is called the nocking point. An arrow nock is most commonly made of plastic. A consistent nocking point aids in shooting accuracy.</p>	



# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Equipment & Accessories (Cont.)

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
			<p>Arrow Points – are designed for functions such as target practice, games and small and big game hunting. It is critical that for hunting, your practice points and hunting tips are of the same grain weight.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practice Points – Bullet shape or field tip shape points are designed to shoot into most back stops made of foam or other synthetic type materials. Practice points are economical to shoot for frequent practice.</li><li>• Judo®Points – Used for small game or when field shooting (roving) as wire protrusions prevent shaft from going deeply into the ground or other ground cover. Judo points should match the grain weight of practice points.</li><li>• Blunt Points – Have a flat, wide tip instead of pointed and kill by shock for small game such as squirrels or rabbits. They can be made of rubber, plastic, or steel and should match the grain weight of practice points. Used many times with flu-flu arrows.</li><li>• Bowfishing Points – Usually made of steel to penetrate the hard scales of rough fish such as carp or gar with removable tip to facilitate removal of fish from arrow.</li><li>• Broadheads – Used for hunting big game. All broadheads must be kept razor sharp and handled with extreme care due to their potential cutting ability.</li></ul>	

# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Equipment & Accessories (Cont.)

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
			<p>There are 3 (three) types of broadheads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fixed Blade - broadheads are mostly used by traditional style bow hunters and many times will glue directly onto the arrow shaft. This type has maximum cutting efficiency with lower draw weight bows. Blade is not removable.</li> <li>• Removable Blade - broadheads are designed with grooves on the center portion of the head (ferrule) which hold the blades in place. Blades may be replaced if damaged without discarding entire broadhead.</li> <li>• Mechanical or Expandable Blade - heads have blades retracted close to the ferrule and therefore a lower profile in flight. Blades open upon impact to expose cutting areas. This type of broadhead is only recommended for bows having a draw weight of 50 pounds or more due to the energy required to expose the blades upon impact.</li> </ul>	
Matching bows and arrows	Matching Equipment	List 3 (three) ways bow hunting equipment must be properly matched.	<p>For maximum performance and accuracy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bow is matched to a bowhunter's size, strength, shooting style, and game hunted.</li> <li>• Arrows are matched to the bow being shot, the archer shooting, and the game being hunted.</li> <li>• All arrows must match each other.</li> </ul>	Safety and Responsibility

# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Equipment & Accessories (Cont.)

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Basic Equipment -Accessories	Bow Sights, Arrow Quivers, Finger & Arm Protection	Describe the utility of stated accessories.	<p>Many commercially manufactured accessories are available. Basic accessories should aid in the maximum performance of both you and your equipment resulting in more game harvested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bow Sight - Improves accuracy of shot placement.</li> <li>Arrow Quiver - Allows safe transport of arrows when hunting by covering sharp broadhead points. Most common quivers attach/detach easily to/from bow.</li> <li>Finger and Arm Protection - Shooting tabs or mechanical string releases can be used to protect fingers when shooting higher poundage bows. Mechanical releases result in a higher degree of accuracy as the string is released precisely in the same manner each time drawn. Arm protection improves accuracy as clothing is contained behind the arm protection (guard) and not available to get caught on string being released. Arm protection may also help prevent injury to the archer's arm when the string is released.</li> </ul>	Safety and Responsibility

Photo courtesy of Mossy Oak





# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Bowhunting Safety

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Archery/ Bow hunting Incidents	Major causes of bow hunting incidents	List the common types of bowhunting injuries and how to prevent them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Falls - proper use of fall restraints devices (4-point harnesses), climbing/step systems and haul lines.</li> <li>Bleeding Injuries – proper use of hooded quivers, broadhead wrenches, and cautious and proper use of knives.</li> </ul>	Safety
Safe handling of archery equipment	Handling of bows and arrows	Demonstrate how to properly inspect bows and arrows and use a quiver and a broadhead wrench for safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the No DRY FIRE Rule when it comes to handling and pulling back strings on bows (only on safe range, in a safe direction, with arrow properly nocked and it's safe to shoot).</li> <li>Inspect bows and arrows prior to every time you plan to shoot them and immediately after shooting exercises. Things to look for include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cracks, bends, loosening of bolts, nuts and accessories on bows.</li> <li>Cracks, splinters and bends (aluminum) in arrows.</li> <li>Frayed strings, strings and cables too close to vanes/feathers on arrow on rest.</li> <li>Loose or damaged fletching on arrows.</li> <li>Nonfunctioning rests, quiver inserts, cams/wheels.</li> <li>Dull or damaged broadheads/points.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Safety
Safe handling of archery equipment	Proper storage and transportation of bows and arrows	Explain why proper storage and transportation are important to your and others safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sturdy bow cases are a must for safe transport of bows in vehicles, on planes, ATV/UHVs, and in boats.</li> <li>In many jurisdictions, it is required to have bow cased while in an ATV/UHV and/or vehicle.</li> <li>Proper storage of broadheads is in a protective quiver and bows away from heat or anything that can damage or bump cables and strings, sights and rests.</li> </ul>	Safety and legality

# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Bowhunting Safety (Cont.)

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Tree stand safety	Tree stand types/ inspection	Describe at least three (3) types of tree stands and their primary functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree stands and other elevated stands are commonly used by bow hunters.</li> <li>• Falls from stands are the number one cause of hunting incidents in North America (Ref: IHEA-USA Hunting Incident Data).</li> <li>• Tree/Elevated Stand Types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hang-on</li> <li>• Ladder</li> <li>• Climbing</li> <li>• Tripods</li> <li>• Platforms</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Tree stand safety	Basic harnesses/fall arrest systems, Basic climbing/step systems, Ascending/ descending systems – lines, belts & Haul lines/use	List the steps to safely place, ascend, climb into and out of, and descend from a tree stand.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchase quality, Treestand Manufacturer's Assn. (TMA) – approved stands and accessories such as climbing systems, harnesses and climbing ropes/belts and haul lines.</li> <li>• Always inspect equipment thoroughly before use especially stands and climbing systems.</li> <li>• Being properly secured from ground to stand back to the ground is the most important aspect of hunting from tree stands.</li> <li>• Most injuries/fatalities occur while climbing into and out of a tree stand.</li> <li>• Consider a sturdy ladder and help from others when securing/placing a hang-on, climbing or platform stand and other elevated stands such as tripods and platform blinds/houses.</li> </ul>	Safety

# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Bowhunting Safety (Cont.)

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
			<p>Steps to properly ascend/descend from a tree stand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure stands and steps/ladder are tightly secured with quality straps and against a proper, sturdy tree with no obstructions in the way while climbing or stepping into/onto the stand itself.</li> <li>• Ensure climbing ropes, Prusik knots and haul line are in place and that arrows are in a protected bow quiver or in a separate bow quiver.</li> <li>• Properly secure your bow to the haul line and ensure it is free from obstructions when pulling it up to the stand; secure fanny/backpack/separate quiver to a second haul line if necessary.</li> <li>• Put on a properly adjusted harness/vest with the proper straps/clamps for securing yourself to the Prusik knot/climbing rope and tree strap once in the stand.</li> <li>• Ascend using three points of contact while climbing (i.e. two feet/one hand; two hands/one foot).</li> <li>• Climb above stand and step down onto platform.</li> <li>• Secure clamp from Prusik knot to Tree strap clamp ensuring that harness strap is taut and allows for little give while in the standing or sitting position in the stand.</li> <li>• When securely in stand, carefully pull up the haul line(s) with bow and packs.</li> <li>• Reverse the order for descending upon completion of the bow hunt.</li> </ul>	



# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Bowhunting Safety (Cont.)

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Field safety	Field shooting safety/range set up	Review proper range set up indoors and outdoors as it applies to bow hunting practice in the field.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure adequate space (300-yards) for an outdoor range or adequate backstop for an indoor range with proper, adequate targets.</li> <li>Use the correct targets (e.g. animal 3-Ds, block-style) when practicing with broadheads and field points.</li> <li>Consider shooting less number of arrows per end/round during your practice session to avoid damage to your arrows (i.e. no more than 5 arrows).</li> <li>Only shoot at a safe range or one that you have properly marked as a target range.</li> <li>If shooting on your property or in your back yard or buildings, ensure that you have an adequate, safe background, backstop and that no arrow if shot accidentally or improperly, can escape the range and strike an unintended target.</li> <li>Count arrows in an outdoor setting to ensure all are retrieved, especially in a public area or field.</li> <li>Never shoot at glass, bottles or other targets not intended for arrow penetration and retrieval.</li> </ul>	Safety
Field safety	Safety considerations while shooting aerial targets	Review proper range set up and shooting at aerial targets for bow shooting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure adequate space (300 yards) and use of flu-flu fletching and safety tips for aerial target practice.</li> <li>Make sure area is clearly marked as a target range and open enough to see any/all intruders/domestic animals/etc.</li> </ul>	Safety
Outdoor safety	Survival considerations for bowhunters	Describe the basic causes, prevention, symptoms and/or field treatments of hypothermia and heat exhaustion and name two factors, which cause each.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hypothermia - the cooling down of core body temperature caused by cold, wind and wet conditions coupled with lack of preparation, emergency preparedness, mental state and knowledge demonstrated by victim and any companions.</li> <li>Heat exhaustion is the heating up of the core body temperature caused by hot, sunny and humid/dry conditions coupled with same factors as with hypothermia plus lack of water.</li> </ul>	Safety

# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Bowhunting Safety (Cont.)

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Outdoor safety	First aid considerations for bowhunters	Give three major bow hunting/outdoor scenarios which make it important for everybow hunter to get first aid/ CPR training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bowhunters face many of the same outdoor survival and wilderness first aid situations that all outdoor users face: (e.g. Heart attack, falls, altitude sickness (hypoxia), burns, knife/broadhead cuts, allergies, animal bites, shock, etc.</li><li>• Information on where to take local CPR/ First Aid training is the best lesson for bow hunters.</li></ul>	Safety

Photo courtesy of Mossy Oak



# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Bow Shooting Skills, Techniques & Preparation

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Shooting skills	Matching bow to personal capabilities & game hunted	List methods to personalize bow to the individual hunter.	<p>Choose bow dexterity based on eye dominance of the hunter. Bowhunters should determine the dominant eye and shoot with both eyes open for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depth perception</li> <li>• Balance</li> <li>• Safety through peripheral vision</li> <li>• Improved field of view</li> </ul> <p>Select the correct arrow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose arrow spine, weight and length to match the bow setup.</li> <li>• Select the correct broadhead / game-point for game hunted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deer - fixed blade broadhead</li> <li>• Turkey - large mechanical broadhead</li> <li>• Rabbit - Judo®/ blunt</li> <li>• Pheasant - Snaro® point</li> <li>• Common carp - bow fishing point</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Responsibility
Shooting skills	Draw weight & length	Describe how to adjust a bow to fit the hunter's current physical condition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select a draw weight that is both comfortable and effective for the game animal being hunted.</li> <li>• For adjustable weight bows - adjust draw weight while increasing limb resistance and energy by turning limb bolts clock wise or decreasing limb resistance and energy by turning limb bolts counter clockwise.</li> <li>• Select and adjust correct draw length.</li> <li>• Calculate draw length by measuring hunter's greatest wingspan (fingertip to fingertip) and divide by 2.5 to give the hunter a good starting point.</li> <li>• The correct draw length will enable the archer to have correct form, improving accuracy and consistency.</li> </ul>	Responsibility



# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Bow Shooting Skills, Techniques & Preparation (Cont.)

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Taking a good shot	Distance estimation	<p>Through field exercise, demonstrate the importance of learning to judge distance.</p> <p>Know what a laser range finder is and how to use one.</p> <p>Describe how to incorporate distance estimation into shooting practice.</p> <p>Define the hunter's effective range.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bow sighting physics—especially if using a sight—and arrow trajectory make accurate distance estimation a very critical element for accurate shooting. (Distance judging becomes more critical at longer ranges.)</li> <li>Take a walk with a laser rangefinder, guess the distance to an object and check it with the device.</li> <li>Mark the ground in 10 yard increments out to 50 yards and memorize how objects look at these distances.</li> <li>Effective range – the maximum shooting distance that a hunter can consistently and comfortably group their arrows within a predetermined space.</li> </ul>	Responsibility
Taking a good shot	Shot Angles	<p>List animal orientation shot angles.</p> <p>Describe why steeper shot angles reduce the exposure to vital organs.</p> <p>Explain why both uphill and downhill shots will result in a lesser distance than the line of sight.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quartering away, broadside, above quartering toward, head-on, rear end.</li> <li>As the angle becomes more severe, the clear path to the vital area becomes smaller; becoming shielded by shoulder bones and spine from above and the sternum from below.</li> <li>Horizontal distance is what the arrow will travel through its trajectory without any vertical component. However, since gravity pulls an arrow down vertically towards the center of the earth, it is the horizontal distance an arrow travels, not the actual distance to the up hill or down hill target, that effects arrow trajectory.</li> </ul>	Responsibility

# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Bow Shooting Skills, Techniques & Preparation (Cont.)

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Taking a good shot	Shot placement/ vital zones	<p>List vital organs found in the chest cavity.</p> <p>Identify a spot to aim at on an animal diagram for a high-percentage shot in the chest cavity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heart, lungs and major arteries of the body.</li> <li>Show on game animal diagram, including various shot angles, where to place aiming spot.</li> </ul>	Responsibility
Bow hunting preparation and techniques	Bow hunting techniques	<p>Define hunting the wind.</p> <p>Describe at least three (3) methods of bow hunting.</p>	<p>Keeping the wind in a direction that does not directly blow towards game or the direction the hunter is traveling.</p> <p>Four (4) methods of bow hunting include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot and Stalk</li> <li>Still hunting</li> <li>Elevated Stands</li> <li>Ground blinds</li> </ul>	Safety and responsibility
Bow hunting preparation and techniques	Clothing, scent prevention & wind detection	<p>Describe layering for both mild and cold weather climates.</p> <p>List multiple methods of minimizing human and unnatural odors.</p> <p>Explain the importance of wind direction awareness and how to detect wind direction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Base layers, insulation, outer shell, waterproof layer.</li> <li>Materials should be quiet.</li> <li>Colors should be neutral and match the surrounding environment.</li> <li>Wash clothes in a fragrance free detergent that is also free of color brighteners.</li> <li>Store clothing in a sealed plastic container or bag.</li> <li>Use natural materials found in the hunting area to add to the selected clothing container, such as cedar boughs, fallen leaves, fresh dirt.</li> <li>Tie a piece of yarn to the bow and it will detect wind and some direction, puff powder will show wind direction near the hunter, fine fiber can float in the wind column for great distances.</li> </ul>	Safety and responsibility

# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Bow Shooting Skills, Techniques & Preparation (Cont.)

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Bow hunting preparation and techniques	Field accessories and considerations	List two (2) decoying techniques that would raise safety concerns for a hunter when hunting with or near decoys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attaching decoys to the hunter or hunting equipment.</li><li>• Hunting behind or under decoys.</li><li>• Hunting within close proximity to life-like motion decoys.</li></ul>	Safety, legality and responsibility

Photo courtesy of Mossy Oak





# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Bowhunting Responsibilities & Game Recovery

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Bow Hunting Regulations	Responsible bow hunters are familiar with and follow hunting and outdoor laws	Explain the reasons for hunting laws and how laws are passed.	<p>Reasons for hunting/bowhunting regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public safety</li> <li>• Opportunity</li> <li>• Fair chase</li> <li>• Fair share</li> <li>• Conservation of resources</li> </ul> <p>Be familiar with federal and state/provincial statutes, regulatory processes, local ordinances, etc. Know how to research and find/look up information from state/provincial bow hunting laws.</p>	Legality, Responsibility
Basic Responsibilities	Bow hunters have many basic and personal responsibilities and a good public image to uphold on behalf of all hunters and hunting	Explain why developing responsible bowhunting behavior is important for every hunter and the future of bowhunting.	<p>A bow hunter has responsibility to and must take responsible action toward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People – self, other hunters, future hunters, landowners, non-hunters, etc.</li> <li>• Wildlife and the environment – game hunted, non-game, habitat.</li> </ul> <p>A responsible bowhunter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respects wildlife and the environment.</li> <li>• Respects landowners and property.</li> <li>• Shows consideration for non-hunters.</li> <li>• Hunts safely.</li> <li>• Knows and obeys hunting laws.</li> <li>• Supports wildlife conservation.</li> <li>• Hunts using fair chase methods.</li> <li>• Becomes knowledgeable about wildlife.</li> <li>• Hunts only with ethical hunters.</li> </ul> <p>A responsible bowhunter will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display game in a respectful and responsible manner.</li> <li>• Wear clean, appropriate clothing in public places.</li> <li>• Present a professional image when talking to the media, or even avoid media if possible.</li> <li>• Avoid alcohol and drugs before or during a hunt.</li> <li>• Take tasteful photographs.</li> <li>• Harvest only as much game as can be used or shared.</li> </ul>	Responsibility

# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Bowhunting Responsibilities & Game Recovery (Cont.)

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Confidence and Risks	Bow hunters who establish their own zone of shooting confidence show respect for game.	Describe the concept of "zone of shooting confidence".	<p>A responsible bow hunter practices shooting and applies consistent and correct shooting form to improve accuracy. A zone of shooting confidence defines the range at which you are assured of making a vital and trackable hit on animals of a particular species. It is defined by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One's ethics such as continual shooting practice.</li><li>• Understanding personal imitations.</li><li>• Using the proper equipment.</li></ul> <p>Risks associated with taking long shots:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased chance of missing vital area.</li><li>• Increased chance of deflection on unnoticed brush.</li><li>• Animal can move before arrow strikes.</li><li>• Increased possibility of wounding, resulting in adverse public relations.</li></ul>	Responsibility

# BOWHUNTER EDUCATION

## Bowhunting Responsibilities & Game Recovery (Cont.)

Curricula Category	Subtopics	Learning Objectives Students will be able to:	Specific Content	Outcome Intended to Impact
Game Recovery Skills	Game Recovery –Tracking techniques and reading sign	Describe the basic steps of big game recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wait for a period of time before trailing game. Normally this time period is at least 1 hour but depends on where animal was hit; could be min. 3 to 8 hours if hit in abdomen</li> <li>• Make a practice of carefully observing every movement of a game animal after you shoot it</li> <li>• Once at the site look for signs:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bright red or dark blood on the ground or vegetation</li> <li>• Broken twigs or branches, or scattered leaves</li> <li>• A “dew” line if early in the morning</li> <li>• Tracks and spoor</li> <li>• Hair, meat or bone fragments</li> <li>• Downhill trails, especially towards water</li> </ul> </li> <li>• When a downed animal is found, approach the animal carefully from above and behind the head</li> <li>• Check the animal’s eyes. The eyes of a dead animal are normally open</li> <li>• If the animal is still alive it should be finished with a well-placed lethal shot</li> <li>• Once the animal is dead, follow the state’s regulations for reporting or recording a kill. You may be required to immediately sign, date and affix a tag to the animal</li> <li>• Comply with tagging requirements</li> <li>• Take appropriate photos –showing respect for the game</li> <li>• Begin field dressing demonstrating safe knife handling</li> </ul>	Legality and responsibility
Care of Game	Proper and legal care of game helps prevent meat spoilage	Describe how to properly and legally care for harvested game.	Hunters use harvested game to provide meat for the table, it should never be wasted. Big game must generally be tagged immediately. Removing internal organs of all harvested game animals by field dressing should be done as soon as possible after the kill to delay meat spoilage. Heat, dirt and moisture can spoil meat. Latex gloves can protect hunters from wildlife diseases.	Legality and responsibility