



Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow

Hunting Awareness & Conservation Education

Shooting and Firearm Skills

Goal: To convey fundamental shooting skills of shotguns, rifles, and archery equipment, and reinforce basic firearm handling techniques and safety in the field.

Objectives: After this block of instruction the participant will be able to:

1. Explain the need for continued practice with firearms and archery equipment to be a safe and successful hunter/ shooter.
2. Experience shooting a compound bow and understand arrow shot placement and vital zones.
3. Experience shooting a rifle and understand proper rifle shot placement and the use of open and scoped sights.
4. Describe safety zones of fire and the use of peripheral vision to keep track of hunting partners.
5. Demonstrate target acquisition and the method of “point and shoot” without aiming!
6. Experience safely shooting a shotgun.
7. Demonstrate how to shoot clay targets.
8. Demonstrate safe firearms handling.

Station 1- Introduction to Archery Shooting

Goal: To ensure that participants are aware of the basic skills a hunter needs for hunting with archery equipment and how those skills differ from hunting with a firearm.

Objectives: After this block of instruction the participant will be able to:

1. Explain proper sight alignment.
2. Explain shot selection and why it is an important part of hunting with archery equipment.
3. Describe kill zones, proper shot placement, and why it is an important skill for hunters to develop.

Why this is important for a Natural Resource Professional: Bow hunters are an important constituency for wildlife professionals. While one of the smallest license segments, they are an important component in managing ungulate populations,

especially in urban environments. Understanding the equipment that bow hunters use will assist professionals in developing effective regulations and will add credibility when dealing with this hunting group. Understanding proper shot selection and placement will assist in developing safety regulations and add credibility when discussing animal welfare issues regarding hunting.

Station 2- Rifle Shot Placement

Goal: To ensure that participants are aware of the basic skills a hunter needs for hunting with a rifle and how those skills differ from hunting with a shotgun.

Objectives: After this block of instruction the participant will be able to:

1. Explain proper sight alignment.
2. Explain shot selection and why it is an important part of hunting.
3. Describe kill zones, proper shot placement, and why it is an important skill for hunters to develop.

Why this is important for a Natural Resource Professional: Rifle hunters are an important constituency for wildlife professionals. They are generally the largest license segment and are an important component in managing ungulate populations, as well as predator control. Understanding the equipment that rifle hunters use will assist professionals in developing effective regulations and will add credibility when dealing with this hunting group. Understanding proper shot selection and placement will assist in developing safety regulations and add credibility when discussing animal welfare issues regarding hunting.

Station 3 – Zones of Fire and Simulated Hunt Walk

Goal: To convey fundamental safety while hunting in a group, basic firearm-handling techniques, delivering the barrels to the target and follow through, and to prepare participants to know their “Zone of Fire”, when it is safe to point a shotgun during the excitement of a flushing bird, and to be aware of their surroundings to include dogs and other hunters in the area.

Objectives: After this block of instruction the participant will be able to:

1. Recognize a variety of safe and unsafe hunting situations.
2. Demonstrate proper field shotgun mounting and stance.
3. Identify and honor zones of fire in different situations.
4. Demonstrate proper field carries.
5. Explain techniques for negotiating obstacles, such as fences or gates.
6. Explain proper removal of firearms from a case and/or vehicle and re-casing for placement in a vehicle.

Why this is important for a Natural Resource Professional: Safe handling of a firearm involves a complex array of motor skills, concentration, and awareness of your companions and surroundings. Understanding this is best achieved through actual participation. Experience with handling firearms will enhance a resource professional's credibility when dealing with hunters. This experience underscores the need for providing hunter training.

Station 4 – Target Acquisition

Goal: To introduce participants to the proper mounting and shooting of shotguns

Objectives: After this block of instruction the participant will be able to:

1. Demonstrate, with a BB gun, proper shotgun mounting and delivering the barrels to the target
2. Demonstrate shooting at a target with a fluid motion rather than precision aiming.
3. Demonstrate target acquisition and follow through.

Why this is important for a Natural Resource Professional: This activity is a precursor to actual shotgun shooting. Understanding the difference between field shooting while hunting and shooting at a range, as well as, being familiar with the use of various hunting equipment, adds credibility to any discussions with hunters.

Station 5 – Clay Target Shooting

Goal: To expose participants to safely shooting at moving targets.

Objectives: After this block of instruction the participant will be able to:

1. Demonstrate safe firearms handling.
2. Demonstrate proper mounting and stance while shooting.
3. Recognize that shooting proficiency requires practice.
4. Experience recreational shooting.
5. Explain the importance of target acquisition, delivering the barrels to the target, and follow through while staying focused on the target.

Why this is important for a Natural Resource Professional: Shooting a firearm involves a complex array of motor skills, concentration, and hand-eye coordination. Understanding this is best achieved through actual participation. Experience with shooting firearms will enhance a resource professional's credibility when dealing with hunters. This experience underscores the need for, and the agencies' role, in providing places where hunters can practice. In addition, shooting experience will assist professionals in developing regulations that are supported by hunters.