

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Division of Enforcement Hunter Education Program

History:

A Hunter Education course has been offered and taught in North Carolina since the 1960's. Hunter Education was placed directly under the Division of Enforcement in 1972. On July 1st, 1991 the Hunter Education course became mandatory. On or after July 1, 1991 a person regardless of age may not procure a hunting license or hunt in the state of North Carolina without producing a certificate of competency or a hunting license prior to July 1st, 1991. Hunters must purchase a license once they reach 16 years of age.

The North Carolina Hunter Education course is a minimum of 10 hours and is accepted in all 50 states, Mexico and Canada. Students must receive a minimum grade of 70 percent on the written exam to receive certification. Students must also show proficiency with handling firearms to pass the course.

Purpose:

Our Hunter Education program is designed to promote the safe handling of firearms and archery equipment, teach responsible, ethical conduct by hunters, educate sportsmen in the various methods and the proper use of equipment in harvesting game, and endorse the importance of wildlife management laws and regulations. As a result of our program, we hope the sportsmen of tomorrow will better understand their obligations to the resources, the landowner, other hunters and themselves.

Goals:

1. To reduce the number of hunting and hunting related accidents and fatalities.
2. To improve the image of the hunter and promote public acceptance of hunting and sport shooting as viable recreational activities and as an essential tool for wildlife management.
3. To provide the hunter and other outdoorsmen/women an awareness of their legal and ethical responsibilities when enjoying and/or harvesting wildlife.
4. To provide the hunter and outdoorsmen/women with a better understanding of the principles of wildlife management practices and need for wildlife laws and regulation.
5. To promote and aid in shooting sports for the public.

Chapters of study include:

- Introduction to Hunter Education
 - History
 - Goals
 - Funding
- Firearms and Hunting Safety
 - Firearms Identification
 - Safe handling
 - Rifles, shotguns, ammunition
 - Transporting, obstacle crossing, etc...
- Specialty Hunting
 - Muzzleloading
 - Handguns

- Archery
- Treestand Safety
 - Types of treestands
 - Fall restraint systems
- Hunter Responsibility
 - Laws and regulations
 - Image, ethics & responsibility
 - Alcohol and drugs, etc...
- Personal Preparedness
 - Physical condition
 - First aid, CPR, etc...
 - Water safety
- Wildlife Conservation
 - Wildlife identification
 - Hunting benefits wildlife, etc...
- Special concerns
 - Turkey hunting
 - Trapping
 - All terrain vehicles
 - Hunting dogs



Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act

(Pittman-Robertson Act):

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, popularly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, was approved by Congress on September 2, 1937, and began functioning July 1, 1938. The purpose of this Act was to provide funding for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife management research and the distribution of information produced by the projects.

The Act was amended October 23, 1970 to include funding for hunter training programs and the development, operation and maintenance of public target ranges. Funds are derived from 11 percent Federal excise tax on sporting arms, ammunition, and archery equipment, and 10 percent tax on handguns. These funds are collected from the manufacturers by the Department of the Treasury and are apportioned each year to the States and Territorial areas by the Department of the Interior on the basis of formulas set forth in the Act. Funds for hunter education and target ranges are derived from one-half of the tax on handguns and archery equipment. *Hunters, anglers, archery and firearms owners are where the vast majority of funding and support for our wildlife resources and public lands lie. Sportsmen are clearly the largest contributors to conservation, paying for programs that benefit all Americans and all wildlife thanks to the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937.*

Hunter Education courses are offered regularly in every county in North Carolina from mid-summer throughout the fall and into the winter. Students may register for courses online at www.ncwildlife.org. or contact the Raleigh office at (919) 733-7191.

We have expanded the North Carolina Hunter Education program to include Advanced Hunter Education courses. The Advanced Hunter Education courses include:

- Bowhunting
- Muzzleloading
- Orienteering
- Treestand Safety

Due to hunter education, hunting accidents have decreased by over 50% during the last twenty years making hunting one of the safest recreational activities.

Remember Hunter Education and safety isn't inherited, you have to teach it! It's up to each of us to do our part.

Report Wildlife Violations 1-800-662-7137

For additional information about the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission visit our web site at www.ncwildlife.org.

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Hunter Education Program

*Be Safe *Be Seen
*Be Responsible * Be Courteous