



Basic Hunter Education Course Lesson Plan



Wildlife Education Division

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Audience:

Anyone seeking a hunter education certificate of competency in order to purchase a North Carolina hunting license per G.S. 113-270.1A

Concept:

The North Carolina Hunter Education Course will meet the standards set forth by the International Hunter Education Association. Of the minimum of six (6) hours of instruction, sixty percent (60%) will be devoted to instruction related to the safe handling of firearms. The remaining forty percent (40%) will include instruction on hunter responsibility (ethics), tree stand safety, wildlife conservation and wildlife management; and may include wildlife identification, game care, specialty hunting, survival and first aid, water safety, and special concerns (alcohol and drugs, turkey hunting, trapping, all-terrain vehicles and hunting dogs). The course may be administered by instructors certified by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

To receive a certificate of competency one must complete all hours of the course, review safe firearm handling skills and score a seventy percent (70%) on the final exam.

Objectives:

- 1.) To deliver the NCWRC approved hunter education course at a level that achieves the minimum requirements set forth by 15A NCAC 10K .0101.
- 2.) Provide varied learning activities in all aspects of the North Carolina Hunter Education Course so participants may learn the required information and come away more confident and prepared to enter the hunting population.
- 3.) To have participants take the knowledge gained, buy a hunting license, and become a North Carolina hunter.

Method:

The North Carolina Hunter Education Course will utilize the "Today's Hunter" manual to guide the information presented in the course. Each of the nine (9) chapters will be covered as required for

participants to receive certification; however, some chapters will be covered more in depth than others. Methods of instruction will vary and may include discussion, lecture, DVD usage, PowerPoint presentations, question and answer, displays, demonstrations, exercises afield, and hands-on activities. Hands-on activities may include handling of dummy firearms, as well as shooting live firearms. The live firearms training may include basic shotgun and rifle shooting. Archery equipment may also be utilized in the live fire segments of the course. As required, the participants will finish the course by taking the final exam.

Materials: Materials will depend on the instructor and facility being used. The following lists materials that may be used. It will be the instructor's responsibility to decide which materials and how many will be needed. There may be additional equipment that may be utilized by some instructors as well i.e. posters, booklets, teaching aids, etc.

Materials may include:

(**required materials)

- "Today's Hunter" manuals**
- Hunter ed exam**
- Hunter ed answer sheet**
- Regulations digests** (<https://www.ncwildlife.org/licensing/regulations>)
- Hunter Ed stickers**
- Hunter Ed graduate patches**
- The Ethical Hunter handout
(https://projectchildsafes.org/sites/default/files/EthicalHunter15_0.pdf)
- National Shooting Sports Foundation handout
- (<http://www3.nssf.org/share/PDF/safety/HunterFactCard.pdf>)
- Ducks at a Distance booklet
(<https://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Ducks%20at%20a%20Distance-OCR.pdf>)
- Today's Turkey Hunter booklet
- Hunter's Handbook magazine(<https://www.huntershandbook.com/>)
- "Today's Hunter" DVD
- "Today's Hunter" PowerPoint presentation
- HE Tools software program
- Laptop
- Projector
- Projector Screen
- TV
- DVD player
- Dummy firearms
- Dummy ammunition
- Live firearms (shotguns, rifles, archery equipment)
- Live ammunition and arrows
- Targets
- Clay targets

- Clay target throwers and associated equipment

The live firearms and associated equipment would obviously not be needed if a range day is not being included with the course.

Background:

The Hunter Education Course has been offered and taught in North Carolina since 1960. The North Carolina Hunter Education Certificate of Competency is accepted in all 50 states. On July 1st, 1991, the Hunter Education Course became mandatory GS 113-270.1A. On or after July 1st, 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. On July 1st, 2013 this law was amended to include the "Hunter Heritage Apprentice" license. Therefore, on or after July 1st, 2013, 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, a hunting license prior to July 1st, 2013, or a Hunter Heritage Apprentice license.

The "Today's Hunter" manual utilized in North Carolina Hunter Education Course is one of the most up-to date and widely used manuals in the United States.

Procedure:

The following is the lesson plan for teaching the North Carolina Hunter Education Course. Sixty percent (60%) of the time (3 hours) is allotted for instruction related to the safe handling of firearms, forty percent (40%) of the time (2 hours) is allotted for instruction on hunter responsibility (ethics), wildlife conservation and wildlife management; and may include wildlife identification, game care, specialty hunting, survival and first aid, water safety, and special concerns (alcohol and drugs, turkey hunting, trapping, all-terrain vehicles and hunting dogs), twenty (20) minutes for breaks, and forty (40) minutes for the final exam.

Suggested break times are made but can be placed and broken up as needed. DVD chapters not shown during the course could be shown during the breaks as additional information.

Chapter 1: Introduction of Hunter Education

Time Commitment:

- Teaching -- 15 mins
- DVD ----- 0 mins
- Total ----- 15 mins

Learning Objectives:

IHEA HE Standards

- Why hunter education-----1A
- Hunter education funding sources-----1D

Suggested Materials:

- Manual
- Power Point
- NSSF pamphlet

Teaching Plan:

Time:

- ____: ____ Discuss HE history
____: ____ Discuss and explain why hunter education
____: ____ Discuss responsibility, safety skills, knowledge, and involvement
____: ____ Discuss HE funding sources especially Pittman-Robertson Act and the importance that we as hunters play in funding
____: ____ Review NSSF pamphlet

Chapter 2: Know Your Firearm Equipment

Time Commitment:

- Teaching -- 1 hr 10 mins
- DVD ----- 5 mins
- Total ----- 1 hr 15 mins

Learning Objectives:

IHEA HE Standards

- What is a firearm-----2B, 5H
- What is ammunition----- 2G, 5H
- How a firearm works-----2D
- Common features of firearms-----2C, 2D, 2B
- Difference between rifles, shotguns, and handguns----2D
- Match firearms and ammunition correctly!!-----2I
- Cleaning your firearm-----2Q
- Storing your firearm-----2P,2R

Suggested Materials:

- Manual
- PowerPoint
- Dummy firearms and dummy ammunition
- DVD – Ch1 “Understanding Ballistics”
- HE Tools – Firearm Basics, Shotguns, Rifles, Ammunition, and Firearm Cleaning and Storage

Teaching Plan:

Time:

- ____: ____ Discuss what a firearm is and its basic parts (*HE Tools-Firearm Basics*)
5:00 Show DVD – Ch1 “Understanding Ballistics”

- ____: ____ Review action types and parts of firearms (*HE Tools-Rifles, Shotguns*)
- ____: ____ Discuss ammunition and choosing ammunition (*HE Tools-Ammunition*)
- ____: ____ Discuss single-shot firearms (*HE Tools-Rifles, Shotguns*)
- ____: ____ Discuss firearm safety devices (*HE Tools-Rifles, Shotguns*)
- ____: ____ Explain and show all sights and that the most important in accuracy is the telescopic
- ____: ____ Discuss the firing sequence and barrel rifling (*HE Tools-Ammunition*)
- ____: ____ Show how to match firearms and ammunition correctly and discuss why (*HE Tools Ammunition*)
- ____: ____ Discuss cleaning (owner's manual) (*HE Tools-Firearm Cleaning and Storage*)
- ____: ____ Discuss storing (*HE Tools-Firearm Cleaning and Storage*)

Chapter 3: Basic Shooting Skills

Time Commitment:

- Teaching -- 30 mins
- DVD ----- 0 mins
- Total ----- 30 mins

Learning Objectives:

IHEA HE Standards

- Good marksmanship and accuracy-----2L
- Rifle firing-----2D,2L
- Shotgun shooting-----2D, 2N

Suggested Materials:

- Manual
- PowerPoint
- Dummy firearms
- Laser Ed gun and target
- HE Tools – Shotguns, Marksmanship

Teaching Plan:

Time:

- ____: ____ Discuss importance of good marksmanship and accuracy for a clean kill (*HE Tools Marksmanship*)
- ____: ____ Discuss accuracy limits and why it's important to know them (*HE Tools Marksmanship*)
- ____: ____ Show how to find the dominant eye and discuss its importance to accurate shooting
- ____: ____ Explain "sighting-in" and the sighting-in procedure (*HE Tools-Marksmanship*)
- ____: ____ Discuss rifle firing techniques
- ____: ____ Explain Shouldering your shotgun (*HE Tools-Shotguns*)
- ____: ____ Explain and demonstrate shotgun shooting techniques (*HE Tools-Shotguns*)
- ____: ____ Explain and show all hearing protection and explain it's importance (*HE Tools*)

10:00 BREAK

Chapter 4: Basic Hunting Skills

Time Commitment:

- Teaching -- 19 mins 30 secs
- DVD ----- 5 mins 30 secs
- Total ----- 25 mins

Learning Objectives:

IHEA HE Standards

- Hunting strategies-----4B
- Vital shots-----5E
- Field care of game-----5F, 5G

Suggested Materials:

- Manual
- PowerPoint
- DVD – Ch2 “Hunting from a Ground Blind” (*Optional*)
- HE Tools – Marksmanship, Game Care and Cleaning

Additional Materials:

- 3D Targets
- Tracks
- Game Calls
- Blinds
- Traps
- Laser Ed gun and DVD
- Game tags
- Game care kit and gloves
- Game bags

Teaching Plan:

Time:

____:____ Review the four basic categories wild animals are classified

____:____ Review other ways animals can be identified (tracks, sounds, signs, smells, etc..)

____:____ Discuss the hunting strategies including trapping

5:30 Show DVD – Ch2 “Hunting from a Ground Blind” (*Optional*)

____:____ Review and discuss the vital areas and where to shoot for big game, medium and small
(*HE Tools-Marksmanship*)

____:____ Discuss searching for and approaching downed game

____:____ Review the legal requirements for tagging and reporting game (Game Tags)

____:____ Discuss proper field and game care (*HE Tools-Game Care and Cleaning*)

____:____ Review transporting game for its care and for ethics

Chapter 5: Primitive Hunting Equipment and Techniques

Time Commitment:

- Teaching -- 24 mins 30 secs
- DVD ----- 5 mins 30 secs
- Total ----- 30 mins

Learning Objectives:

IHEA HE Standards

- Know your muzzleloader-----
- Basic muzzleloader safety and skills-----
- Know your bow and arrow-----
- Know your crossbow-----
- Bowhunting safety and skills-----

Suggested Materials:

- Manual
- PowerPoint
- DVD – Ch3 “Modern Inline Muzzleloading Safety” (*Optional*)
- HE Tools – Muzzleloading, Bowhunting

Additional Materials:

- Bow types and arrow types
- Dummy muzzleloader

Teaching Plan:

Time:

****This chapter will be a brief review due to the advanced courses offered on these topics**

5:30 Show DVD – Ch3 “Modern Inline Muzzleloading Safety” (*Optional*)

____:____ Review basic parts of a muzzleloader (*HE Tools-Muzzleloading*)

____:____ Review basic cleaning, loading, unloading and firing of a muzzleloader (*HE Tools Muzzleloading*)

____:____ Review and show all the bows, bow parts, arrows, types of arrowheads (*HE Tools Bowhunting*)

____:____ Discuss bow and crossbow safety

____:____ Review the bow shooting stance and shooting techniques

____:____ Review sighting in a bow

Chapter 6: Be a Safe Hunter

Time Commitment:

- Teaching – 1 hr 11mins

- DVD ----- 24 mins
- Total ----- 1 hr 35 mins

Learning Objectives:

IHEA HE Standards

- Why firearms safety is important-----2A, 2E
- Safely carrying firearms in the field-----3A, 3B, 3C, 3E,3I
- Safely loading and unloading firearms-----2J, 3E
- Safely Transporting firearms-----2P
- Safe Zone-of-Fire-----3C
- Other safety considerations-----3L
- Hunting from elevated stands-----3F, 3G, 3H, 3I
- Hunting with boats-----3R

Suggested Materials:

- Manual
- Handout “Hunting with Dogs: Hunter’s Responsibility and Ethics” and manual updates
- PowerPoint
- DVD – Ch6 “Safe Firearm Carries”, Ch7 “Safe Fence Crossing”, Ch8 “Loading and Unloading Firearms”, Ch10 “Safe Zones of Fire”, Ch11 “Preparing to Hunt from a Tree Stand”, Ch12 “Tree Stand Hunting Safety”
- HE Tools – Firearm Safety and Handling
- Dummy Firearms
- Fence can be PVC pipe, broom with 2 chairs, etc
- Fall-Arrest System

Teaching Plan:

Time:

- ____: ____ Review the 4 Primary Rules of Firearm Safety
- ____: ____ Review the four main causes of hunting incidents
- 2:30 Show DVD – Ch6 “Safe Firearm Carries”
- ____: ____ Demonstrate the 6 field carries (*HE Tools-Firearm Safety and Handling*)
- ____: ____ Demonstrate the positions for carry when hunting with others
- ____: ____ Review checking for obstructions
- 1:30 Show DVD – Ch7 “Safe Fence Crossing”
- ____: ____ Demonstrate the crossing of obstacles (fence or other objects) (*HE Tools-Firearm Safety and Handling*)
- 3:45 Show DVD – Ch8 “Loading and Unloading Firearms”
- ____: ____ Review and demonstrate safely loading and unloading firearms
- ____: ____ Review and show the proper ways to store and transport firearms
- 6:15 Show DVD – Ch10 “Safe Zones of Fire”
- ____: ____ Review and demonstrate “safe zone-of-fire” while hunting with others or in stands (*HE Tools-Firearm Safety and Handling*)
- ____: ____ Discuss self-control and target identification

- ____: ____ Discuss the use of alcohol and drugs
- 6:00 Show DVD – Ch11 “Preparing to Hunt from a Treestand”
- ____: ____ Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of hunting from elevated stands and types of stands
- 4:00 Show DVD – Ch12 “Treestand Hunting Safety”
- ____: ____ Review “Fall Arrest Systems” and demonstrate the harness, life line and haul line
- ____: ____ Review and discuss “if you should fall in an elevated stand”
- ____: ____ Discuss hauling your firearm and equipment to an elevated stand
- ____: ____ Review and discuss hunting with boats, including use of PFDs and firearm use and care.
- ____: ____ Review and discuss hunting with ATVs, including safety ATV handling and land owner permission
- ____: ____ Review and discuss hunting with dogs, including NC dog hunting history. Reference the Hunting with Dogs handout.

10:00 BREAK

Chapter 7: Be a Responsible and Ethical Hunter

Time Commitment:

- Teaching – 23 mins
- DVD ----- 2 mins
- Total ----- 25 mins

Learning Objectives:

IHEA HE Standards

- Why do we have hunting laws-----4A, 4C, 5C, 5D
- Hunter ethics-----5A, 5B,5C, 5D

Suggested Materials:

- Manual
- Handout “Hunting with Dogs: Hunter’s Responsibility and Ethics” and manual updates
- PowerPoint
- DVD – Ch13 “Approached by a Conservation Officer” (*Optional*)
- Regulations Digest
- The ethical hunter handout
- Written permission forms

Teaching Plan:

- ____: ____ Review the 4 ways we have hunting laws and why?
- ____: ____ Review the Regulations Digest
- ____: ____ Discuss the “Hunters Code”- Respect of the Resource, Other Hunters, Landowners, and Non-Hunters
- ____: ____ Review the Ethical Hunter handout
- ____: ____ Discuss the NC Trespass Laws and review Hunting with Dogs- Hunter’ Responsibility and

Ethics handout

2:00 Show DVD – Ch13 “Approached by a Conservation Officer” (*Optional*)

____: ____ Discuss a hunters involvement

Chapter 8: Preparation and Survival Skills

Time Commitment:

- Teaching -- 15 mins
- DVD ----- 5 mins
- Total ----- 20 mins

Learning Objectives:

IHEA HE Standards

- Importance of planning and preparation--3M, 3N, 3O, 3P, 3Q, 3R, 3S
- Wearing Daylight Fluorescent Orange-----3K
- Survival skills-----3M, 3N
- Coping with extreme weather-----3Q
- Basic first aid-----3S

Suggested Materials:

- Manual
- PowerPoint
- DVD – Ch14 “Effectiveness of Blaze Orange”
- HE Tools – Outdoor Preparedness

Teaching Plan:

Time:

____: ____ Review the importance of planning and preparation

____: ____ Review both mental and physical conditioning

____: ____ Review clothing types and their importance

5:00 Show DVD – Ch14 “Effectiveness of Blaze Orange”

____: ____ Review topographic maps and compasses (Remind students of Advanced Course “Orienteering”)

____: ____ Discuss Survival skills

____: ____ Review signaling for help

____: ____ Review the importance of water and how much is needed

____: ____ Review hypothermia and how to treat and prevent it (*HE Tools-Outdoor Preparedness*)

____: ____ Review heat exhaustion and how to treat and prevent it (*HE Tools-Outdoor Preparedness*)

____: ____ Review basic first aid (*Suggest students take a basic first aid course*)

Chapter 9: Wildlife Conservation

Time Commitment:

- Teaching -- 15 mins
- DVD ----- 0 mins
- Total----- 15 mins

Learning Objectives:

IHEA HE Standards

- Wildlife conservation-----1B, 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F, 1G, 1H
- Wildlife management and conservation principles-----1E, 1F, 1G, 1H
- Wildlife identification-----4D

Materials:

- Manual
- PowerPoint
- HE Tools – Wildlife Management

Teaching Plan:

Time:

- ____: ____ Discuss wildlife conservation
- ____: ____ Define conservation, preservation and wildlife management
(*HE Tools-Wildlife Management*)
- ____: ____ Discuss lessons in wildlife management and how hunting helps
- ____: ____ Discuss and define "Habitat" (*HE Tools-Wildlife Management*)
- ____: ____ Discuss and define "Hunting regulations" (*HE Tools-Wildlife Management*)
- ____: ____ Review the hunters role in wildlife conservation
- ____: ____ Review wildlife management practices
- ____: ____ Discuss and review wildlife identification and show the ID section for the students to review on their own

Final Exam

Time Commitment:

- Minimum 30 mins. There is no time limit, some students will take longer based on individual testing needs.

Adapting the course:

The hunter education courses adaptability will depend on the instructors. Many different methods and exercises can be utilized for instruction. It will also depend on the participants. Delivery can be adapted to best serve the participants with age and experience level in mind.

As far as the course itself, it can be taught in one (1) day or multiple days. Which way it is run will depend on facilities and instructor availability.

Evaluation:

The evaluation for the course will be the final exam given at the conclusion of the course. The North Carolina Hunter Education Course has the ultimate goal of creating licensed hunters that are safe and responsible. With this in mind, other evaluation methods to test for understanding throughout the course may be utilized. Other methods may include: Question and answer, discussion, demonstration, end of chapter review questions, etc.

Post Activities:

Participants should be made aware of advanced courses offered by NCWRC and directed as to where to find and sign up for such courses (www.ncwrc.org- example getting started in The Outdoors, GSO). Those that may be in need of a mentor could be put in touch with such if one is known of.