



H O W - T O G U I D E H U N T E R E D U C A T I O N F I R S T H U N T E V E N T

Studies show that about one third of all hunter education graduates never buy a hunting license within seven years of completing the course. Of those who do, fewer than half are hunting after six years. Turning this tide could be as simple as an invitation and mentoring from your Delta chapter supported by the WHF dollars it has earned. Inviting and mentoring people who might never have otherwise considered duck or goose hunting is fun and heartwarming!



GET STARTED:

1. Connect with hunter ed instructors in your area:

- Live courses are advertised at sporting goods stores, social media, gun clubs, etc.
- While many students take hunter education courses online, some states and provinces require a “field day” for graduation. If yours is one of those, you can contact the instructors conducting these events.
- Offer to attend a class session or field day event to talk about waterfowl hunting.

2. Make the invitation:

- Conclude your talk with an invitation to join a First Hunt with your chapter.
- Use Delta’s promo materials (posters, video) to make wider-reaching invitations.



PRE-HUNT PREPARATION AND SHOOTING SKILLS:

1. Pre-Hunt Preparation:

- Focus on the essentials: licensing, HIP survey, and shotshells for waterfowling.
- Provide a checklist of gear and inexpensive acquisition options or offer to loan gear.
- Help participants purchase the appropriate licenses online.

2. On the Range:

- At a safe location, offer basic wingshooting skills instruction.
- Check with your state/provincial conservation department and/or local conservation officers to learn if they have personnel, equipment, and/or facilities to assist.

3. Mentorship Approach:

- Pair each two participants with one mentor who will also guide them while hunting.
- Emphasize safety, comfort, and enjoyment throughout.

4. Gearing Up:

- If applicable, break up the sessions with gear fitting (waders, jackets, etc.).



IN THE FIELD (HUNT DAY):

1. Mentor's Role:

- Prioritize safety, comfort, and enjoyment for the participants.
- Mentors should assist in spotting birds, calling the shots, and identifying birds.
- Mentors do not shoot during the event; focus solely on enjoyment of participants.

2. Post-Hunt:

- Ensure birds are correctly assigned to hunters.
- Properly prepare birds for transport and/or the table and send home a proven recipe or two for cooking the harvest. (<https://deltawaterfowl.org/whats-new/recipes/>)
- Encourage participants to share photos and videos, tagging Delta.

FINAL NOTES:

- Safety, Comfort, and Enjoyment are the overarching theme of every phase of the event.
- Leverage Delta's extensive support network to ensure the event runs smoothly and answers any unforeseen challenges.