



Virginia Hunter Skills Weekend Class Descriptions

September 6-8, 2019

Physical Activity Ratings

Minimal = the class is not very physically demanding

Moderate = the class has a medium amount of physical activity

Rugged = fairly strenuous, may require hiking over uneven terrain

BOW TUNING AND MAINTENANCE: Learn the basics of compound and traditional archery bow tuning. Course includes how to perform basic maintenance and tuning on your own equipment. Students will learn how to inspect a bow for safety, bow tuning terminology, use of basic bow tuning tools, cam timing, how to serve a bow string, tie in peep sights, tie in a "D" loop, set an arrow rest and how to properly sight a bow sight. Discussing and demonstration includes how to maintain a bow string, arrow maintenance and field expedient repairs. Class includes practical exercises on how to serve a bow string using a back serving, tie a "D" loop and basic bow knots. This is a practical, hands-on class and students are encouraged to bring their own bow to class.

Moderate, 12

DEER HUNTING SKILLS: Deer hunting methods are discussed and include how to scout for sign. Deer habits and biology are reviewed to help understand behavior and how the time of year affects their behavior. Selecting firearms, clothing, and other hunting accessories is discussed.

Moderate, 20

DOGS AS HUNTING PARTNERS: Working with a dog in the field is a rewarding, fun experience. Explore the world of hunting with dogs for upland game birds, waterfowl, rabbits and bear. Learn about what is involved in training a dog for each hunting type and see live demonstrations of dogs working with their owners. Understand how different breeds are uniquely suited to the type of hunting for which they are trained, and what type of equipment is used during the training process.

Minimal, 15

GETTING STARTED IN VIRGINIA HUNTING 101...a class from the ground up for beginners:

This class discusses and puts to practical use the skills needed for today's beginning hunter in Virginia. The class engages participants with subjects starting with "what do I need to get started hunting in Virginia" to "where and how to hunt in Virginia" and will end with "how can I be successful hunting in Virginia". Discussion will cover small game, bird hunting, and large game hunting with references for reflection. This class is for female and male participants and age is not a factor. The class will be taught by two instructors and will feature next generation and traditional perspectives.

Minimal, 20

RECOVERY OF WOUNDED GAME: This class is designed to help the hunter recover wounded game for a quick recovery. Blood, bone, tracks, and other signs are discussed to reveal what the sign shows about animal movement, condition and location. Participants are shown signs that indicate if it is better to wait or pursue the wounded game immediately. Participants also follow simulated signs during a field exercise to learn what to look for.

Rugged, 12

TURKEY HUNTING SKILLS: In this class you will learn about the stages in the year of a turkey's life and how that will affect how you hunt them differently in the fall compared to the spring. Patterning your shotgun and shot size selection will be demonstrated. Clothing, blinds, and the wide selection of calls will be discussed with the opportunity to try some calls. Safety practices when turkey hunting will be discussed and scouting for sign.
Moderate, 20

WATERFOWL HUNTING BASICS: This course is designed for the person who has never hunted ducks or geese. It will cover the basic information from firearms and ammo selection to how to find places to go for waterfowl. The course will provide an overview of necessary equipment, safety items and details on decoys, calling, and game laws.
Moderate, 12

WILD GAME COOKING: Culinary fun in the kitchen and on the grill. Learn about preparing game meats from field to freezer to table. Try a variety of recipes for game (which may include venison, waterfowl, rabbit, squirrel, or upland game birds). Learn techniques and recipes for stovetop, oven, crock pot, and grill. Bring your appetite; there'll be plenty to eat!
Minimal, 12

WILDERNESS SURVIVAL: This practical, hands-on Class will help participants get ready for any outdoor adventure. Students will learn proper survival planning and how to prepare for the two greatest risks when hunting and hiking. Our experts combine proven techniques and methods to teach how to stay alive in the back country using the five most important skills: fire making, sheltering, navigation, rescue signaling, and finding food and water.
Rugged, 12

LIVE FIRE CLASSES*:

NOTE: *All personal firearms brought for the activities below must be unloaded and locked in a vehicle until participant is authorized by the instructor to bring it to the class or range. Every firearm must be inspected by an instructor before use.*

SQUIRREL HUNT: Learn to hunt squirrels with an actual guided hunt lead by VDGIF Hunter Education Program Manager David Dodson in the Featherfen WMA near Holiday Lake. Students MUST shoot to qualify on Friday afternoon and ALL participants MUST attend a short classroom session about squirrel hunting in order to go on the hunt on Saturday morning. Current hunting license or apprentice license will be required, as is attendance at the mandatory meeting Friday night, September 14. Students may bring a shotgun or use one provided (no rifles permitted).
Rugged, 6

BOWFISHING: Participants learn about the equipment, techniques, and skills necessary to successfully use archery tackle to fish for carp, ray, gar, and other non-game species. Opportunities, where to fish, and regulations affecting bow fishing will be discussed. This is a hands-on class and offers an opportunity to use bows equipped with a variety of tackle. Simulated targets are used to experience the challenges of shooting underwater.
Moderate, 12

HUNTING WITH THE MODERN SPORTING RIFLE: The Modern Sport Rifle (MSR), also known as the AR platform, has been growing in popularity in the hunting community. In this class students will be given an introduction to the MSR and why people are choosing to move to this very versatile platform for hunting. Participants will be given a chance to handle and shoot various MSR's in different calibers with different optics and with different setups. Instructors will show how easy it is to change the setup, how to adjust the firearm for hunting, and what should be considered when buying a MSR for hunting.
Moderate, 6

INSTINCTIVE ARCHERY: This course focuses on shooting a bow based on the instinctive principles of shooting. At the core of instinctive shooting is training your body to shoot accurately without aiming. This traditional style of shooting does not require sights. Course includes instruction on basic archery equipment (long bow, recurve, arrows), proper form, stance, grip, anchor point and how to focus on a specific spot for a good shot. Basics will be conducted in a classroom, then students will move onto the archery range for practical application. After a few ends on the range, students will move onto the range to shoot various life-size 3-dimensional animal targets. Over-the-ankle boots and insect repellent are recommended for the range. Students that have their own traditional archery equipment are encouraged to bring it to the class to shoot.

Moderate, 12

MUZZLELOADING, BASIC: This class introduces students to the use of muzzleloader rifles. They learn gun safety, how traditional and in-line muzzleloaders operate, and how to use one in the hunting environment. Students spend time on the range shooting muzzleloaders. Participants may bring their own muzzleloading rifle or handgun for use on the range and to learn how to operate and clean it.

Moderate, 12

RIFLE, BASIC: Class begins with discussion of rifle parts, actions, marksmanship and the safe handling of firearms. On the range, students are introduced to a scoped .22 rifle with instruction in handling, shooting and marksmanship for the beginner and intermediate shooter. A hunting scenario woods walk is included, weather permitting. Students may have the opportunity to fire one or two rounds with a centerfire rifle if they wish, time permitting.

Moderate, 12

SHOTGUN, BASIC: Students are introduced to different shotgun actions, discuss selecting the proper ammunition, firearms safety, and learn about patterning a shotgun. On the range participants will shoot at clay birds coming from different directions and speeds. Instruction is given on shooting fundamentals to help participants become a better shot.

Moderate, 12

SKEET: This shotgun game is an excellent way to hone your wingshooting skills for hunting season. This class teaches the fundamentals and rules of skeet. It is recommended that students who sign up for this class have taken a basic shotgun class. Students may bring their own shotgun or use one provided.

Moderate, 10