



Virginia Hunter Skills Weekend Class Descriptions

September 25-27, 2020

Registration deadline September 11, 2020

Physical Activity Ratings

Minimal = the class is not very physically demanding

Moderate = the class has a medium amount of physical activity

Rugged = strenuous, may require hiking over uneven terrain

ARCHERY HUNTING (may include brief live fire if time allows): This is an introduction to basic bow hunting. Discussion includes information on bow selection, fit, tuning, and necessary accessories for your bow and bow hunting. Instruction focuses on safe and responsible bow hunting, preparation before the hunt, methods of bow hunting, shot placement and recovery techniques and outdoor preparedness. Students that have their own archery tackle are encouraged to bring their bow/arrows to class. Time permitting, students may have an opportunity to shoot at 3D targets.

Moderate, 12

BASIC FIRST AID CERTIFICATION from EMS SAFETY SERVICES, INC.: Students will learn skills and techniques needed to respond confidently and effectively in an emergency, and how to apply those skills to circumstances that may arise in a hunting emergency. Stop the Bleed trauma care will be included. This course is taught by a certified EMS Safety instructor. Students successfully completing the class, skills practice, written and skills testing will earn an EMS First Aid 101 Certification.

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

FIELD TO TABLE: Students will take part in skinning, quartering, cleaning, fabricating cuts and preparing meat for storage with a whole, fresh deer. Discussion includes proper handling in the field through butchering and storage, and health and safety concerns with wild meat. This 8-hour, intensely hands-on class will conclude with 1-2 hours of cooking tips and recipe preparation using some of the venison, as well as preparing squirrels taken during the Saturday morning guided squirrel hunt.

Moderate, 16

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

HUNTING FROM BLINDS, BOATS AND STANDS: Students will learn about how to hunt safely when using special equipment in the field. Boats, tree stands, and blinds provide advantages to the hunter but come with challenges, risks and environmental considerations. Discussion will include how to choose equipment, advantages and disadvantages, safety practices and regulations. Students will practice setting up blinds, balancing loads in a boat, and other related skills.

Minimal, 16

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

TRAPPING BASICS: Students will get an in-depth introduction to the skill, strategy and ethics involved in trapping on land and in water. Topics will include trapping as a wildlife management tool, for meat and fur; types of traps; how and when to use traps and seasons and regulations. Students will go into the field to learn how to select trap set locations and practice using several types of traps and sets.

Moderate, 18

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.

Minimal, 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

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.

ARCHERY, BASIC: This course focuses on fundamentals of archery. The course begins with an introduction to the types of bows, parts of the bow, types and parts of arrows, accessories for the bow, and accessories for shooting a bow. Instruction on basic archery shooting includes proper form, stance, grip, anchor point and how to aim if using sights, or how to focus on a specific spot for a good shot if shooting instinctively (without sights). Basics will be conducted in a classroom, then students will move onto the archery range for practical application. After a few ends on the 10-yard range, students will

move onto the 3-D 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 archery equipment are encouraged to bring it to the class to shoot.

Moderate, 12

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

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: *Basic Shotgun or equivalent required for this class.* This shotgun game is an excellent way to hone your wing shooting skills for hunting season. This class teaches the fundamentals and rules of skeet. Students may bring their own shotgun or use one provided.

Moderate, 12

SMALL GAME HUNTING WITH RIMFIRE FIREARMS: The pursuit of small game (rabbits, squirrels and other small game) gives a hunter more opportunities to get in the field and is a good way to start a novice or youth hunter. Firearm selection, hunting techniques, and information about getting started hunting small game will be provided.

Moderate, 20

SQUIRREL HUNT: Learn to hunt squirrels with an actual guided hunt led 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 25. Students may bring a shotgun or use one provided (no rifles permitted).

Rugged, 6