



## Virginia Hunter Skills Weekend Class Descriptions September 23-25, 2022

Registration deadline September 2, 2022

### 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

**BEAR NECESSITIES:** Interested in hunting bear in Virginia? This class will cover the basics that anyone should know to get started. Learn about bear biology, behavior and habitat; discuss scouting, equipment selection and hunting strategies (with and without dogs), retrieval and extraction techniques; tips on judging size and determining sex; and review game care and meat handling tips. Moderate; 12

**BOW TUNING AND MAINTENANCE:** Learn how to perform basic maintenance and tuning on your own compound and traditional archery equipment. Learn bow tuning terminology, see how to inspect a bow for safety and use bow tuning tools for cam timing, serving strings, tying in peep sights and "D" loops, setting an arrow rest, and how to properly sight a bow sight. Demonstration includes how to maintain a bow string, arrow maintenance, and field expedient repairs. This is a practical, hands-on class and students are encouraged to bring their own bow.

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, 14

**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.

Moderate, 16

**INTRODUCTION TO SHOOTING SPORTS: *No live fire.*** Explore the world of shooting sports and learn about the many activities available year-round to improve your shooting skills, learn a new discipline, or find a fun, challenging way to shoot. This class introduces rifle, shotgun, archery, and muzzleloader options outside the normal hunting seasons, organizations that support the different disciplines, and allows time for discussion and questions.

Minimal, 14

**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

**TRACKING:** Hunting success begins long before hunting season and knowing how to find game and study the signs it leaves is a key skill. Learn how to interpret tracks to understand why an animal is where it is, what it's doing and where it's going. Students will venture into the woods to find and read signs of passage with the guidance of experienced trackers. This is a rain or shine activity so students should be prepared for any kind of weather.

Rugged, 12

**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, 16

**WATERFOWLING ESSENTIALS: Designed for students who have taken the Basic Waterfowl class or have some experience with waterfowl hunting.** Explore the diversity of waterfowl hunting and the many ways to achieve success in the field. Learn about shooting from inside different types of blinds, how to effectively use decoys for various species and hunting spots, and how to retrieve birds. Discuss dogs as hunting partners and learn how a retrieving dog can add to the fun and success with a live demonstration from a dog/trainer team.

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

### **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.**

**BASIC ARCHERY:** This course focuses on fundamentals of archery. Learn about types and parts of bows, arrows, and accessories. Shooting instruction includes form, stance, grip, anchor point, aiming, and instinctive shooting (without sights) techniques. Begin in the classroom then move onto the outdoor archery range and 3-D course\* for practical application.

\*Terrain is rough and participants should wear over-the-ankle boots for protection and stability; insect repellent is recommended; students that have their own archery equipment are encouraged to bring it to the class to shoot.

Moderate, 12

**3D ARCHERY SHOOT: Basic Archery or equivalent required for this class.** Join fellow archery enthusiasts for practice shooting at 3-dimensional targets on a wooded walking course\*. Each small group will be supervised by an instructor and participants will decide whether to keep it casual or make it competitive.

\*Terrain is rough and participants should wear over-the-ankle boots for protection and stability; insect repellent is recommended; students that have their own archery equipment are encouraged to bring it to the class to shoot.

Rugged, 16

**BASIC MUZZLELOADING:** 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

**BASIC RIFLE:** 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

**BASIC SHOTGUN:** 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 targets coming from different directions and speeds. Instruction is given on shotgun shooting fundamentals to help participants become a better shot. Students may bring their own shotgun or use one provided.

Moderate, 12

**SHOTGUN, ADVANCED:** *Basic Shotgun or equivalent required for this class.* Designed for experienced shotgunners who want to improve their skill at shooting moving, aerial targets. Learn about shooting at longer distances, challenging angles, faster speeds, and at multiple targets. Participants may bring their own firearms.

Moderate, 12

**SKEET:** *Basic Shotgun or equivalent required for this class.* Skeet is a game of angles and leads. The shotgun game of skeet 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, 12

**SQUIRREL HUNT:** Learn to hunt squirrels with an actual guided hunt 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 23. Students may bring a shotgun or use one provided (no rifles permitted).

Rugged, 8

**UPLAND GAME SHOOTING TECHNIQUES:** *Basic Shotgun or equivalent required for this class.* Students explore techniques and shooting principles geared toward improving their shotgun skills for upland game hunting. On the range, clay targets are thrown that simulate hunting shots. Beginners to advance hunters are welcome; students may bring their own shotgun or use one provided.

Moderate, 12