

Your local instructor is:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

# TEXAS HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

## IT'S UP TO YOU

Hunter education is the first step in a lifelong commitment to responsible outdoor behavior, conservation and stewardship. Your efforts will safeguard hunting opportunities and other outdoor adventures. Your contributions through federal sports tax dollars will continue to be used to conserve our natural resources for present and future generations. We thank the hunter conservationists of yesterday and welcome you as we continue the heritage of hunting in Texas. Always be a safe and responsible hunter!



Life's better outside.®

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HUNTER EDUCATION BEGAN AS A VOLUNTARY PROGRAM IN 1972. "MANDATORY" HUNTER EDUCATION BECAME LAW IN 1988, REQUIRING HUNTERS BORN ON OR AFTER SEPT. 2, 1971, TO PASS THE COURSE. SINCE THAT TIME, TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE (TPW) HAS CERTIFIED OVER 1 MILLION STUDENTS! MINIMUM AGE FOR CERTIFICATION IS 9 YEARS.

## THE INSTRUCTORS

About 3,000 certified volunteer instructors, professional educators and game wardens have been trained to teach hunter education across Texas. Many instructors wish to give back their time and experience to ensure that hunting heritage in Texas continues. Instructors must: be 21 years of age, of high moral character, pass the basic student course, complete an application, interview with a game warden, and attend a new instructor course.

## THE COURSE

There are four ways to become certified in Texas Hunter Education.

- **Basic Hunter Education Course**  
6 hours of classroom instruction by a TPW certified instructor.
- **Enhanced Hunter Education Course**  
Completion of an online course plus a one-day, 4-hour class with a TPW certified instructor.
- **Advanced Hunter Education Course**  
More than 6 hours of instruction by a TPW certified instructor.
- **Online Course for Complete Certification**  
Completion of a TPW approved online course. You must be 17 years of age or older to be eligible for the Online Course for Complete Certification.

## SCHEDULED COURSES

Courses are taught by volunteer instructors, trained and certified by the Texas Parks and Wildlife hunter education staff. Courses are scheduled across the state. For availability, visit [www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntered](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntered) and select the desired course, or call (800) 792-1112, menu 62.

## THE COURSE COVERS:

- Hunting Rules and Regulations
- Ethics and Responsibilities
- Wildlife Management/Conservation
- Modern and Primitive Sporting Arms/ Ammunition
- Safe Firearm Handling, Cleaning and Storage
- Outdoor Skills, Survival and First Aid
- Wildlife Identification
- Live-Firing and Field Exercises (often included)



## CAN I FAIL THE COURSE?

Yes. You can fail the course because of unsatisfactory knowledge, skill or attitude as evaluated by your instructor. The minimum score on any Texas hunter education final exam is 75 percent. However, if you achieve a higher score but lack safe skills during live-firing or field exercises, or as a result of classroom disruptions, improper attitude or incomplete attendance, you may fail the course.

## CERTIFICATION

When you successfully complete the course, you'll receive a certification card.

- Certification is good for life.
- Other states, provinces or jurisdictions honor Texas certification.
- You must carry proof of certification on your person while hunting.
- Proof of certification is either your card or your hunter education number printed on your hunting license. Check your license upon purchase.
- Proof of certification is NOT required to purchase a license.

If you lose your card, you may request a free duplicate at [www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntered](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntered) under Duplicate Card Request. Or you may call (800) 792-1112 (menu 62), or (512) 389-4999.

## MAY I TAKE THE COURSE BEFORE AGE 9?

Yes. Anyone may take the course before age 9 and upon successful completion, will receive a "Certificate of Attendance." Certification is required for individuals to participate in the Texas Youth Hunting Program youth hunts. You will not automatically receive certification upon turning age 9; you must retake the course after turning age 9 for official certification.



Every hunter (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, must successfully complete a hunter education course. If you were born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, and you are:

- under 9 years of age, you must be accompanied.\*

## ADDITIONAL OPTION: ONE-TIME, ONE YEAR HUNTER EDUCATION DEFERRAL

Hunter Education Deferral (cost: \$10) allows a person 17 years of age or older who has not completed a hunter education program to defer completion for up to one year. A deferral may only be obtained once and is only valid until the end of the current license year. A person who has been convicted or has received deferred adjudication for violation of the mandatory hunter education requirement is prohibited from applying for a deferral. The one-time Hunter Education Deferral is available at license vendors.

## WHO MAY PURCHASE THE DEFERRAL

Any individual 17 years of age or older who has not completed the hunter education course may purchase the deferral. The deferral will be available at any license vendor. The deferral is to accommodate those who:

- are taking up hunting at a later age.
- have been out of hunting for a while.
- are military personnel home on leave or stationed in Texas.
- are college students home during the holidays.
- are from out-of-state and do not have similar requirements in their jurisdiction or country.

In all cases, a person 17 years of age or older, who is licensed to hunt in Texas, and has

completed hunter education (or was born prior to Sept. 2, 1971), must accompany a hunter with a deferral and be within normal voice control.

## COST

Hunter education certification by the state is \$15. However, there may be additional "optional" costs associated with the course, such as building/facility use fees, parking fees and range fees. Students may select another location to attend the course to avoid paying these additional fees. Check with the instructor regarding any additional fees.

## BOWHUNTERS

Additional bowhunter education courses are available, and certification is required on certain areas of Texas (Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge, Pottsboro; Camp Bullis, San Antonio; and Schreiner Park, Kerrville).

*Note: Bowhunter education does not substitute for hunter education certification. Several other states and provinces require bowhunter education certification in addition to hunter education. Always check with the jurisdiction in which you hunt.*

For course information, visit [www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntered](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntered)



# HUNTER EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:

Note: Certification is not required to purchase a hunting license.

- age 9–16, you must successfully complete a hunter education course, or you must be accompanied.\*
- age 17 and over, you must successfully complete a hunter education course; or purchase a one-time only "Hunter Education Deferral," and you must be accompanied.\*

\*Accompanied means: by a person who is at least 17, who is licensed to hunt in Texas, who has passed hunter education or is exempt (born before Sept. 2, 1971) and who is within normal voice control. Proof of certification or deferral is required to be on your person while hunting.