Every hunter (including out-of-state hunters) born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, must successfully complete a Hunter Education Training Course. Minimum age of certification is 9 years. Cost is $15.

If you were born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, and you are:

• under 9 years of age, you must be accompanied*.
• age 9 through 16, you must successfully complete a hunter education course, or be accompanied*.
• age 17 and over, you must successfully complete a hunter education course; or purchase a “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 you must be within normal voice control.

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.

A deferral is NOT required to purchase a hunting license.

Bowhunter Education: Certification is required on certain areas of Texas such as Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge, Pottsboro.

Note: Bowhunter education does NOT substitute for Hunter Education certification.

See the back panel for more Hunter Education information and how to find courses in your area.

The main goal of hunter education is to produce SAFE, RESPONSIBLE, KNOWLEDGEABLE and INVOLVED hunters. Courses give beginning hunters a place to start, removing the temptation to learn by “trial-and-error.” Hunter education refreshes veteran hunters and provides them with a tool to pass on proper information and values of hunting. The course is more than just a lesson in the “Ten Commandments of Shooting Safety.” Courses cover a variety of topics including wildlife conservation, management, hunting ethics and responsibilities, preparation, modern and primitive firearms, archery, survival, first aid, hunting techniques and, of course, hunting safety.

For more information and courses in your area, visit www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntered
Know your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it.

Control your emotions when it comes to safety.

Wear hearing and eye protection.

Don't drink alcohol or take drugs before or while handling firearms or bow and arrows.

Be aware of additional circumstances which require added caution or safety awareness.

Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.

Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or nocked arrow.

Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond your target.

Unload firearms and unstring conventional bows when not in use.

Handle firearms, arrows and ammunition carefully.

TEN COMMANDMENTS OF SHOOTING SAFETY

1. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
2. Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or nocked arrow.
3. Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond your target.
4. Unload firearms and unstring conventional bows when not in use.
5. Handle firearms, arrows and ammunition carefully.
6. Know your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it.
7. Control your emotions when it comes to safety.
8. Wear hearing and eye protection.
9. Don't drink alcohol or take drugs before or while handling firearms or bow and arrows.
10. Be aware of additional circumstances which require added caution or safety awareness.