



# Hunter Education in Your Town

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Who Are  
We?

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Who Are  
Hunters?

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# Who Are Hunters?

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- Recent surveys show that in the US, most folks hunt:
  - To spend time in nature
  - For food
  - To spend time with family and friends



A photograph of three women in hunting attire standing in a field. The woman on the left wears a camouflage jacket and an orange cap, smiling and pointing. The woman in the center wears a yellow shirt and an orange beanie, also smiling and pointing. The woman on the right wears a camouflage jacket and an orange beanie, holding a rifle. The background is a blurred field with trees under a grey sky.


# Why Hunt?



A photograph of three women in hunting attire standing in a field. The woman on the left is wearing a camouflage jacket and an orange cap, smiling and pointing towards the center. The woman in the middle is wearing a tan jacket and an orange beanie, holding a rifle and looking towards the center. The woman on the right is wearing a camouflage jacket and an orange beanie, holding a rifle and looking towards the center. The background is a blurred field with trees in the distance.


# Why Hunt?

- Connect to nature
- For food
- Spend time with family and friends
- Necessity

A photograph of three women in hunting attire standing in a field. The woman on the left is wearing a camouflage jacket and an orange cap, smiling and pointing towards the center. The woman in the middle is wearing a yellow shirt and an orange beanie, also smiling and pointing towards the center. The woman on the right is wearing a camouflage jacket and an orange beanie, looking towards the center. They are all holding rifles. The background is a blurred field with trees in the distance.

How does hunting  
relate to the local  
landscape?



A person wearing an orange shirt, dark pants, and a large backpack is walking away from the camera through a field of tall, dry grass. A dog is walking alongside them in the foreground. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background under a cloudy sky.

How does hunting  
relate to community?

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A person wearing an orange long-sleeved shirt, grey pants, and a large grey backpack is walking away from the camera through a field of tall, dry grass. A dog with black and white patches is walking alongside them. The background shows a line of trees under a cloudy sky.

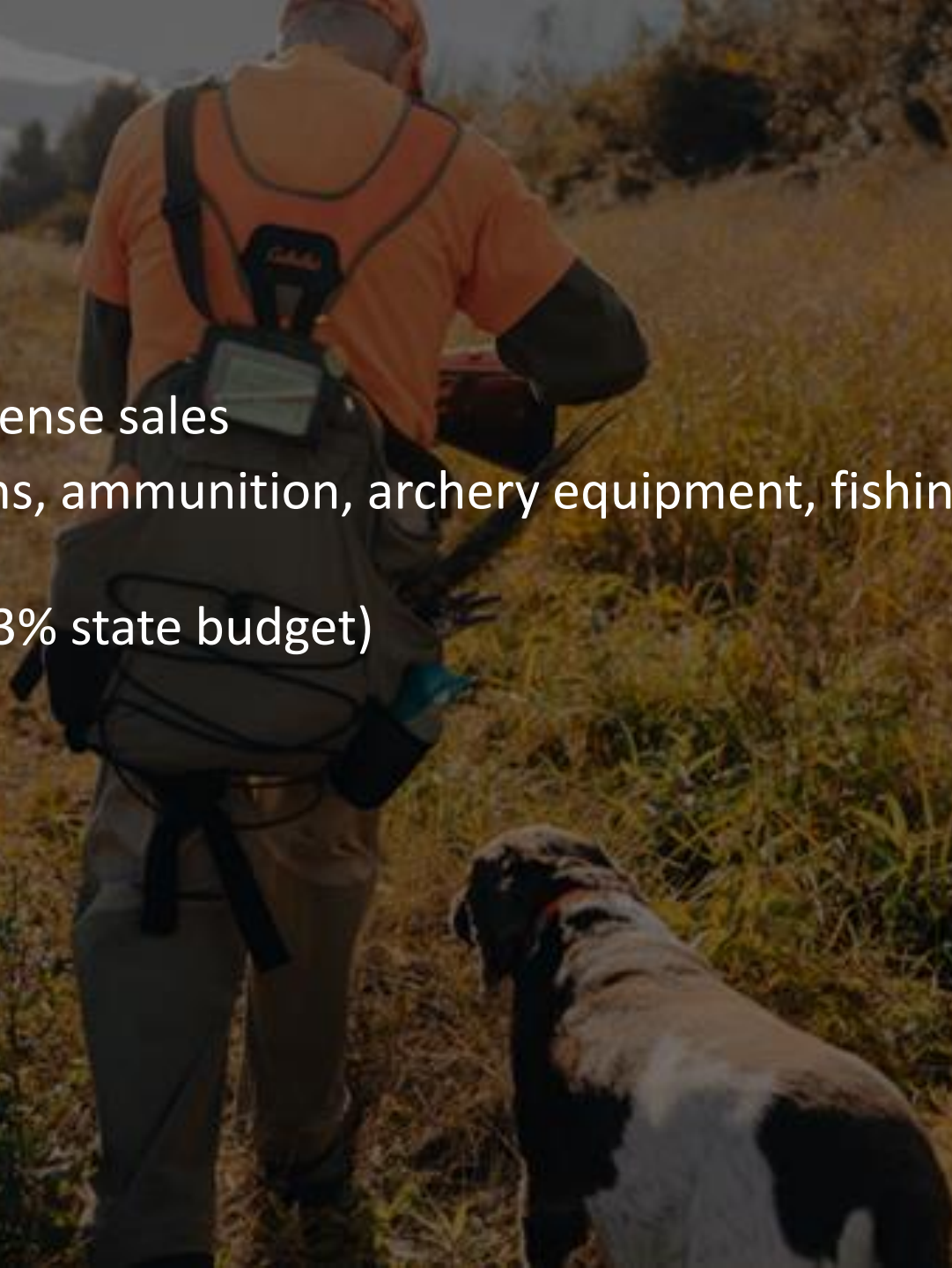
# Hunter Education Program Goals

- To create safe, knowledgeable, and responsible hunters.
- To build support for hunting and trapping.
- To develop meaningful outreach programs that target new hunters and foster hunter skill development.



# Funding

- Hunting & fishing license sales
- Excise tax on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, fishing tackle, boating gear
- General funds (0.003% state budget)
- Donations







# Habitat Recovery





## Reintroduced Species





Peregrine falcon: delisted 2005



Osprey: delisted 2005



Common loon: delisted 2005



Bald eagle: delisted 2022

# Recovered Species



Spiny softshell turtle: state threatened



American marten: state endangered



Lake sturgeon: state endangered



Canada lynx: state endangered

Species Still at Risk



Hunter  
Education  
Program  
Funding

How does hunting  
fund conservation?





A person with a backpack is hiking on a trail in a mountainous area. The person is seen from behind, wearing a blue cap and a purple shirt. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.

## Hunter Education Program Funding

How does hunting  
fund conservation?

Pittman Robertson Act – Wildlife and Sportfish  
Restoration Fund

Search YouTube for: Conservation's Latest  
Problem? Not Enough Hunters NPR Skunk Bear

Video link:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOvCpxjr  
0h0&t](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOvCpxjr0h0&t)





## Hunter Education Program: What We Do

- Hunter Education
- Bowhunter Education
- Trapper Education
- Advanced Seminars
- Learn to Hunt
- Mentoring/Mentored Hunting
- Wild Game Cooking & the locavore movement – Vermont Wild Kitchen
- School programs
- Green Mountain Conservation Camps
- Abenaki cooking and storytelling





## Hunter Education Program: By the Numbers

- About 150 in person classes per year
- About 3,500 students certified in person per year
- About 350 volunteer instructors





Hunter Education  
Program: Volunteer  
Commitments

Typically teach 2 classes or 16-20  
hours per year





## Hunter Education Program: The Future

- Advanced hunting seminars
- Increased emphasis on local food
- Learn to Hunt and mentoring adult hunters
- Increased partnerships with Abenaki, hunters of color, hunters with disabilities, etc.





## Hunter Education Program: Who Are the Instructors?

- Volunteers
- Background check
- Fingerprint
- Training
- Student teaching





## Hunter Education Program: Where Do We Teach?

- Local firehouse
- Municipal buildings
- Schools
- Recreation centers/parks
- Anyplace with access to outdoor space





# Hunter Education Program: When To Host a Class?

- The months leading up to the seasons





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# Hunter Education Program: What Do Students Learn?





## Hunter Education Program: What Do Students Learn?

### 4 Rules of Firearm Safety:

1. Treat every gun as if it is loaded
2. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction
3. Know your target and what is beyond
4. Finger off the trigger/out of trigger guard until ready to shoot





## Hunter Education Program: What Do Students Learn?

Basic Hunter Education: Basic survival, shot placement, anatomy, biology, conservation principles, basic first aid, hunter ethics, laws, map and compass, shooting a firearm, etc.

Bowhunter Education: Bowhunter ethics, shooting a bow, treestand safety, use of treestand harness, distance estimation, etc.

Trapper Education: Trapper ethics, fur handling techniques, selection of trap sites, Best Management Practices (BMPs), etc.





## Hunter Education Program: How Do I Get Classes in My Town?

- Contact us
- Host an instructor training class
- Become a volunteer instructor





# Our Other Education Programs

Let's Go Fishing

Hunter Education

Green Mountain Conservation Camps

ProjectWILD





**Contact Us!**

**VT Fish & Wildlife Main Line**  
**802-828-1000**

[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)



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# Hunter Education Program: Additional Resources

- 1. How can killing an elephant increase elephant populations? How can trophy hunting be conservation?**  
Search YouTube for: Why Trophy Hunting Can Be Good for Animals | Adam Ruins Everything  
Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUA8i5S0YMU>
- 2. International Hunter Education Association:** <https://www.ihea-usa.org/>
- 3. Stories about adult-onset hunters:**
  - Search YouTube for: An Adult Onset Hunter Story - Quail Hunting Nebraska - Never Too Late. Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iy4EwL7mYE>
  - The Heart of the Hunt by Emma Ellsworth (Google Search Massachusetts Wildlife Heart of the Hunt) [https://www.mountgrace.org/fileadmin/files/Publications/MassWildlife\\_2021-01\\_heart-of-the-hunt\\_By\\_Emma\\_Ellsworth.pdf](https://www.mountgrace.org/fileadmin/files/Publications/MassWildlife_2021-01_heart-of-the-hunt_By_Emma_Ellsworth.pdf)
- 4. Where can I find resources about diversity in hunting/the outdoors?**
  - <https://www.outsideonline.com/2411502/queer-hunter-reflects-coming-out> (**search:** outside online queer hunter)
  - Get started on Instagram: @queersandcamo | @huntersofcolor | @nontypicaloutdoorsman | @blackforager | @hunttoeat | @birdability | @pattiegonia | @diversityinadventure | @theautisticnaturalist | @browngirlsclimb | @unlikelyhikers | @intersectionalenvironmentalist | @queernature | @lgbtoutdoors | @blackforager | @naturechola | @nativewomenswilderness | @vasu\_sojitra | @hood\_\_naturalist | @blackinmarinescience | @outdoormuslims | @the\_dawnland\_kitchen



# More information/sources

- Vermont Fish & Wildlife Website: [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)
- Vermont Physicians Will be Prescribing Day Passes to State Parks: <https://www.mychamplainvalley.com/news/vermont-physicians-will-be-prescribing-day-passes-to-state-parks/726805874>
- Nature Rx Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bf5TgVRGND4>
- North American Association for Environmental Education: <https://naaee.org/>
- ProjectWILD: <https://www.fishwildlife.org/afwa-inspires/project-wild>
- Project Learning Tree: <https://www.plt.org/>
- The Human-Nature Relationship and Its Impact on Health: A Critical Review: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5114301/>
- Why Connecting With Nature Elevates Your Mental Health: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-new-resilience/201801/why-connecting-nature-elevates-your-mental-health>
- Connecting With Nature Has Real Benefits: [https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/davidsuzukifoundation/nature-health\\_b\\_9801764.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/davidsuzukifoundation/nature-health_b_9801764.html)
- Health Benefits from Nature Experiences Depend on Dose: <https://www.nature.com/articles/srep28551>
- How nature is good for our health and happiness: <http://www.bbc.com/earth/story/20160420-how-nature-is-good-for-our-health-and-happiness>