

HUNTING ARIZONA 2009

Arizona Mentored Hunting Camps

Workshops designed to teach small game basics

Arizona Game and Fish Department

The Arizona Game and Fish Department is partnering with several organizations to offer camps on hunting basics to individuals who are interested in hunting but may not know where to start. These hands-on workshops teach the skills necessary to successfully pursue the variety of small game found in Arizona. Both adults and youths are invited to participate.

The camps include instruction and the opportunity to interact with experienced mentors and other camp participants. Attendees will learn information on firearm safety, hunting opportunities, game care, archery instruction, and more. There will also be hands-on hunting opportunities.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own firearms, but if you don't have a firearm, one will be provided for you at the camp. The workshops are aimed at developing responsible and successful hunters who recognize the importance of wildlife and habitat conservation.

Schedule of 2009-2010 Mentored Hunting Camps

For the majority of these events, all the participant has to

do is show up and the mentors take care of the rest, including food and equipment. For others, participants must bring basic outdoor camping gear, and some hunts may require a hunting license and appropriate tags or stamps.

"Hunting in Arizona is very safe and it provides a healthy experience for the body, the mind and the soul," said Arizona Game and Fish Director Larry Voyles. "Not only is it fun and challenging, but hunters play a critical role in modern wildlife conservation through harvest, funding, habitat restoration, advocacy and more."

The types of hunts, time of year and location can accommodate nearly any schedule, and include:

- Oct. 15-18, Junior Elk Hunt Camp – Hosted by Arizona Elk Society at Happy Jack Lodge for unit 6A (Open to those already issued an elk tag). For information, call (623) 594-7074.

- Oct. 15-19, Junior Elk Hunt Camp – Hosted by Arizona Deer Association, location to be determined, for unit 3A and 3C (Open to those already issued an elk tag). For information,

call (623) 866-8919 or azace@cox.net.

- Nov. 19-22, Junior Deer & Javelina Hunt Camp – Hosted by Arizona chapter of the Safari Club International at Marley Ranch south of Tucson for units 36A and 36B (Limited javelina tags still available, deer tags already issued). For information, call (520) 490-8367.

- Nov. 19-22, Junior Deer Hunt Camp – Hosted by Arizona Deer Association, location to be determined, for unit 20C (Open to those already issued a deer tag). For information, call (623) 866-8919 or azace@cox.net.

- Nov. 26-29, Bull Elk Hunt Camp – Hosted by Arizona Deer Association at Bar D Ranch for unit 6A (Open to those already issued an elk tag). For information, call (623) 866-8919 or azace@cox.net.

- Dec. 5-6, Predator Hunting Seminar and Camp – Hosted by Huachuca Gould's chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, at Rose Tree Museum in Sierra Vista. To register, contact (520) 508-4272.

- Dec. 5-6, Small Game Hunting Camp – Hosted by Chandler Rod and Gun Club, at Gold Canyon. To register, e-mail info@chandlerro-

dandgunclub.com.

- Dec. 11-13, Junior Waterfowl Hunting Camp – Hosted by Southwest Habitat Partnership, at Cibola National Wildlife Refuge. To register, e-mail getoutsideaz@gmail.com.

- Dec. 18-21, Junior Muzzle-loader Deer Hunting Camp – Hosted by Mohave Sportsman Club, at Cain Springs in unit 16A (Open to those already issued a deer tag). For information, call (928) 758-2355.

- December (date pending), Shotgun Shooting Camp – Hosted by Northeastern Arizona Sportsman's Association in St. Johns. To register, call (928) 337-3768.

- Jan. 16-17, Quail Hunting Camp – Hosted by Cochise Bird Dog Club at Empire Ranch near Sonoita. To register, call (520) 458-1584.

- Jan. 21-24, Juniors Javelina Hunting Camp – Hosted by Arizona Deer Association, location to be determined, in unit 20C (Apply for javelina tag before Oct. 13, Hunt No. 5039). For information, call (623) 866-8919 or azace@cox.net.

- Jan. 21-24, Javelina Hunting Camp – Hosted by Arizona Deer Association, location to be determined, in unit 23 (Apply for javelina tag before Oct. 13,



Photo Courtesy of Arizona Game and Fish Department

Hunt No. 5040). For information, call (623) 866-8919 or azace@cox.net.

- Jan. 22-24, Junior Jack Rabbit Hunting Camp – Hosted by Arizona chapter of the Safari Club International, at Altar Valley. To register, contact (520) 490-8367.

- April 15-18, Youth Turkey Hunting Camp – Hosted by National Wild Turkey Federation, location to be determined, in Unit 6A near Flagstaff (Turkey tag required, available at any license dealer). For information, call (928) 848-4549.

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- April 15-18, Youth Turkey Hunting Camp – Hosted by National Wild Turkey Federation at Colcord Ridge Campground for units 3, 4, and 23 (Turkey tag required, available at any license dealer). For information, call (928) 848-4549.

- April 15-18, Youth Turkey Hunting Camp – Hosted by National Wild Turkey Federation at Alpine for units 1 and 27 (Turkey tag required, available at any license dealer). For information, call (928) 848-4549.

Big game tag transfers and donation options

Don't let your big game tag go to waste if you can't use it

Arizona Game and Fish Department

Are you unable to use your big game tag this fall because of an unexpected change in plans?

You can still put that valuable big game tag to good use. The Arizona Game and Fish Department's rules allow a couple of options for transferring the tag to give a youngster a thrilling hunting opportunity.

A parent, grandparent, or legal guardian can transfer his/her tag to his/her minor child or grandchild. Or, a tag holder can donate their tag to a qualified nonprofit organization that provides hunting opportunities to children with life-threatening medical conditions.

Transfer to child:

A parent, grandparent or legal guardian holding a big game tag may allow the use of that tag by their minor child or minor grandchild pursuant to the following requirements:

- * The minor child is 10 to 17 years old on the date of transfer;

- * The minor child has a valid hunting or combination license on the date of transfer;

- * A minor child less than 14 years old has satisfactorily completed a Department-approved hunter education course by the beginning date of the hunt;

- * The parent or guardian must accompany the child in the field or, if a grandparent allows a minor grandchild to use the grandparent's permit or tag, the grandparent, parent or the child's guardian must accompany the child in the field. In either case, the adult must be within 50 yards of the child when the animal is taken.

Transfer to nonprofit organization for ill child:

A number of qualified nonprofit organizations are dedicated to providing hunting opportunities to children with illnesses with a wish to go hunting. The Tag

Transfer program has given many children a chance to go on a hunt-of-a-lifetime in Arizona during a time of need.

"To a child that has a terminal or chronic illness, an Arizona big game hunt truly can be the 'hunt of a lifetime' said Hunt of a Lifetime Ambassador for Arizona and New Mexico, Nate Medcalf. "What better way to make a difference in a child's life?"

To donate your unused big game tag, the following organizations can be contacted to arrange for a donation:

- * Catch-A-Dream at <http://catchadream.org>.

hoalarizona.org.

- * Hunt of a Lifetime at www.hoalarizona.org.

- * Outdoor Experience 4 All at www.outdoorexperienceforall.org.

- * United Special Sportsmen Alliance at www.childswish.com.

To learn more about the big game hunt permit-tag transfer law consult A.R.S. 17-332 at www.azleg.gov/ArizonaRevisedStatutes.asp?Title=17.

To learn more about hunting in Arizona, visit the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Web site at www.azgfd.gov/hunting.

Wildlife's answer to 911 report wildlife violators

OPERATION GAME THIEF is a public awareness program that allows people to call in on a toll-free hotline, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to report wildlife violations.

Poaching is serious business in Arizona. There are only 156 commissioned officers in the Arizona Game and Fish Department and many of these officers only do enforcement part-time. The department relies on the honest citizens of the state to assist in the reduction of wildlife law violations.

Poachers are thieves and



can do this by either calling our toll-free hotline at 1-800-352-0700 or filling out as much of the information as possible (all fields are optional) on the link to the online form below.

We will keep your report confidential upon request, and rewards of \$50-\$1,000 may be offered in certain cases. Eligible cases will pay rewards upon the arrest of the violator.

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Or report a violation online at: www.azgfd.gov/ogt_form.shtml

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HUNTING ARIZONA 2009



Join a youth shotgun shooting team this fall

Scholastic Clay Target Program offers fun outdoor recreation

Arizona Game and Fish Department

Students, are you looking for fun, competition, and the chance to meet new friends and be part of a team?

The Arizona Game and Fish Department's 2009-10 Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) season is ready to get underway, and students interested in learning about and competing in skeet, trap and sporting clays shotgun shooting are encouraged to find a club in their community.

The program is open to boys and girls from age 9 through 12th grades.

"Our SCTP is one of the best in the nation and we continue to see students become great athletes of clay target shooting through this team-based youth development program," said Statewide Shooting Sports Coordinator, Ashley Lynch. "The mentoring, instruction, safety, and teamwork instilled by our certified coaches are second to none."

The program is run similar to other youth-based athletics. The season runs from Oct 1, 2009 – May 1, 2010. Athletes can join at anytime depending on club availability. All of the SCTP clubs in Arizona are run 100 percent by volunteers. These dedicated vol-

unteers are committed to teaching today's youth to carry on the American tradition of shooting sports recreation.

"Shooting sports are an activity that any person with the desire can participate in. The structure of this program allows kids to have fun, compete, and learn safety and discipline skills," said Lynch.

Currently, there were 20 active clubs across the state; below is a list by region with contact information to get you started.

Central region:

- Chandler area – Arizona Dust Devils (480) 628-9977
- North Phoenix – Ben Avery Clay Crushers (602) 920-5465
- Buckeye – Buckeye Buckshots (623) 869-9050
- Phantom / West Valley – Phantom Sure Shots (623) 925-9549
- East Valley – Rio Salado Target Terminators (480) 510-5604

Northern region:

- Cottonwood / Verde Valley – American Heritage Academy (enrollment to AHA students only)
- Prescott – Prescott (928) 636-4709

- Williams/Flagstaff – Williams Bird Busters (928) 635-4330
- Wickenburg – Wickenburg (928) 231-7644

Northeastern region:

- St. Johns – Leading Edge Shooters (928) 337-4955
- Springerville / Round Valley – White Mountain Rod & Gun Club (928) 333-5692
- Show Low – White Mountain Clay Busters (928) 369-1155

Northwestern region:

- Kingman – Mohave Top Guns (928) 753-5274
- Lake Havasu – Havasu SCTP (928) 486-8607

Southern region:

- Casa Grande - Central Arizona Target Shooters (CATS) (520) 251-2024
- Tucson – Tucson Shooting Stars (520) 780-0715
- Globe – Globe SCTP (602) 542-2785

Southeastern region:

- Double Adobe / McNeal – Double Adobe Young Guns (520) 364-4000
- Sierra Vista – Huachuca Hot Shots (520) 266-1078



Photo Courtesy of Arizona Game and Fish Department

Southwestern region:

- Yuma – Yuma Young Guns (928) 246-7157

To learn more about the department's SCTP program, maps of participating teams, or how to get involved, visit www.azgfd.gov/sctp.

SCTP is a youth development program that teaches trap, skeet and sporting clays to students in grades 12 and under. The program uses a competitive, team-based format and has been called the "Little League" of shooting sports. More than 600 kids com-

pete in Arizona's SCTP. Nationally, about 10,000 youngsters compete in 40 states.

To learn more about the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation national SCTP program, visit www.sssfonline.org.

Nature rules! Stay on roads & trails

Ride responsibly when shed hunting

Arizona Game and Fish Department

Shed hunting is a great way to experience outdoor Arizona, appreciate the cycle of nature and spend time with friends. These tips show the low impact way to hunt shed antlers and assure good shed hunting in the future.

Do's when shed hunting:

- * Stay on roads and trails when out on your off-highway vehicle
- * Walk while you stalk and pack out to your OHV
- * Always tread lightly on any wildlife habitat you encounter
- * Stay clear and respect the space of sick, injured or cornered wildlife
- * Report injured wildlife to the Arizona Game and Fish Department
- * Wait for the antlers to shed naturally
- * Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return
- * Consult local land management agencies regarding local rules and regulations
- Responsible shed hunters work to protect wildlife and their habitat. High stress can cause pregnant does and cows to lose their young, while poor body conditioning and nutrition can



Photo Courtesy of Arizona Game and Fish Department

stunt future antler growth in male animals. This can directly affect your future hunting and OHV access opportunities.

Don'ts when shed hunting:

- * Do not operate off-road vehicles in wilderness areas off of roads or trails
- * Do not harass or chase wildlife with your motorized vehicle
- * Do not allow dogs to chase wildlife
- * Do not corner wildlife and harass them to get antlers to fall off prematurely
- * Do not destroy, harm or, worst of all, litter on wildlife

habitat areas

- * Do not cause road damage in very wet areas. Road ruts can lead to illegal roads being created
- Chasing, harassing and disturbing wildlife can harm wildlife, their habitat and can decrease your access to public and private lands. For more information, go online to: www.azgfd.gov/ohv.
- If you witness harassment of wildlife or any other activity that is potentially harmful to wildlife, their habitat or other shed hunters, report the incident to Operation Game Thief at 1-800-352-0700.

Hunter education programs

Hunter education programs across the country are designed to continue the hunting heritage by developing safe, responsible, ethical and knowledgeable hunters. Hunting is a hallowed family tradition that teaches respect for life, each other and nature. It teaches accountability and responsibility.

If you are a new hunter, or want to learn about wildlife conservation, the environment, firearms and gun safety, the Arizona Game and Fish Department hunter education courses can help.

The program will also benefit experienced people who want to become more proficient hunters and conservationists.

While hunter safety is the program focus, hunter ethics, wildlife management, survival, and other important topics are also covered.

Course Information:

Everyone that is at least 10 years old is encouraged to participate in a department hunter education course. Taught by volunteer instructors, a modest fee to offset student expenses for ammunition and other materials is usually assessed at the first class.

The department offers an introductory beginners course requiring approximately nine hours in the classroom with a field day consisting of another four to six hours. The department also offers an independent study online hunter education course. Just like the classroom courses, however, a final (proctored) exam will be required prior to course graduation. More detailed classes are also available requiring approximately 20 hours, along with a combination course for bowhunt-

ers that is approximately 28 hours. These classroom courses are generally offered during weekends and weeknights across the state with the field day conducted at a local shooting range.

At a minimum, subjects covered include an introduction to hunter education and conservation as well as topics such as:

- Safety, responsibility, hunter education funding sources.
 - Behaviors of a responsible hunter.
 - Wildlife conservation.
 - Basic hunting and shooting skills.
 - Arizona's Hunting Regulations and Develop.
- Enroll your family in our hunter education program today. For more information, visit www.azgfd.gov or call (623) 236-7235 or (623) 236-7236.

2009-10 Small Game Hunting Calendar

- Blue grouse:** Sept. 11–Nov. 15
- Chukar:** Sept. 11–Feb. 7
- Rabbits (jackrabbits and cottontails):** Open year-round
- Quail (Gambel's and scaled):** Oct. 2–Feb. 7
- Tree Squirrel:** Oct. 2–Dec. 31
- Band-tailed Pigeon:** Sept. 11 north zone; Sept. 18 south zone; Oct. 4 both zones
- Waterfowl (ducks and geese):** Oct. 9–Jan. 17 Mountain Zone; Oct. 23–Jan. 31 Desert Zone.

Some restrictions apply; see regulations.
Snipe: Oct. 9–Jan. 17 Mountain Zone; Oct. 23–Jan. 31 Desert Zone
Dove late season: Nov. 20–Jan. 3
Mearns' Quail: Nov. 27–Feb. 7
Predators/Furbearers (coyotes,

foxes, etc.): Open year-round
 For exact season dates, bag limits, and other guidelines, please refer to the current Arizona Hunting and Trapping Regulations, Dove and Band-tailed Pigeon Regulations, or the Waterfowl and Snipe Regulations.

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