

CONSIDERATIONS FOR WOTW LEARN TO HUNT / SHOOT EVENTS:



Address detailed expectations ahead of time. Send agenda, describe what participants should wear or bring, explain what will be provided, describe who the event is for i.e. 'women who have never hunted pheasants before' or 'women who want to learn more about bird hunting but aren't sure they are ready to pull the trigger'.

Incorporate program elements to increase women's **confidence** by helping them feel:

- More **COMFORTABLE**
- More **CONNECTED**
- More **PREPARED**
- **SAFER** in the field



The most effective events cause participants to identify as hunters or shooters after the event and increase how comfortable, safe, and prepared they feel about hunting or shooting independently.

R3 Program elements that increased feelings of comfort, safety, and preparedness:



Hands-on Practice and Experience



Safety Information



Getting Familiar with Firearms/Equipment

Agenda ideas for a women's learn to hunt or learn to shoot event (required topics denoted with*):

Gear Discussion: Firearms (especially fitting), ammunition, clothing, footwear, vests and vest contents, hygiene products: strategies for navigating pregnancy, nursing, menstruation and going to the bathroom in the field). Comfort is important!

Planning the Hunt: Scouting, gear preparation, accessing private and public land (onX and how to approach landowners).

***Safety and Preparedness:** Practice, practice, practice with firearm handling and shooting. Name the parts of the gun so participants can communicate about their firearm effectively with other hunters or industry professionals in the future!

***Knowledge and Skills:** Develop firearm handling, shooting, and cleaning skills. Understand local regulations and access rules for public and private land. Build knowledge of target species and the hunting landscape (habitat characteristics to look for).

Motivations and Emotions: Discussing these can foster a sense of belonging and help participants identify with one another: food sourcing, self-sustainability, recreation, and time in nature. Emotional drivers: independence, empowerment, adrenaline, and community. Address and normalize emotional barriers like fear, guilt, and self-doubt.

Community and Social Support: Allow time for individual conversations between participants and mentors to form lasting relationships and social networks. 10 participants is an ideal maximum to foster connections. Identify local online communities participants can join and encourage the sharing of contact information.

Discussion of Common Constraints and Barriers: Time management, finances, and access to equipment, balancing hunting with family responsibilities. Address constraints related to public land access and finding hunting partners. Ask participants what they want to talk about here!

Bird Harvesting and Processing: Discuss ethics in the field and note that this looks different for everyone. Field etiquette as well as what is safe (don't shoot grounded birds if dogs are on the ground!). Demonstrate bird processing and discuss ways to utilize the whole bird. Discuss lead vs. non-toxic ammunition.



Sample Agenda for a single day Women's Learn to Hunt Event:

- Arrival and welcome, intro to PF & QF, expectations discussion and ice breaker
- Shotgun fitting, eye dominance and verbal safety briefing
- Clay demonstration and practice shooting
- Break for Lunch – use this time to eat while discussing participants motivations for attending and facilitating contact information exchange
- Actual hunt
- Dinner featuring a game bird recipe
- Closing, point to next gathering or how to become a chapter member and stay connected



WOMEN *on the* WING

