



GUIDE TO HOSTING

LEARN TO HUNT EVENTS



STEP 1: FORM A PLANNING TEAM



- Assemble a diverse group dedicated to hosting a quality event
- Appoint a Hunt Coordinator to lead and ensure event quality

STEP 2: PLANNING PHASE



Decide on wild or released bird event, location, and timing.



STEP 3: DECIDE ON WILD VS. PEN-RAISED BIRDS



- **WILD BIRDS** (*preferred if possible*)
 - Advantages:
 - Introduces participants to a place they can return to later on their own
 - Ensures a clear understanding of local hunting regulations
 - Often allows for more time in the field
 - Realistic setting with opportunities to evaluate habitat and real world situations
 - Cost savings
 - Keys to Success:
 - Set realistic expectations
 - Ensure knowledgeable mentors/guides
 - Emphasize bird, habitat, and dog work
 - Provide shooting opportunities for each participant
 - Secure optimal habitat
 - Ensure guides know property boundaries and terrain
 - Prepare participants by outlining appropriate gear/clothing (briars and mud)
- **RELEASED BIRDS** (*sometimes the only option*)
 - Advantages:
 - More shooting opportunity
 - Requires less acreage, offers logistical control
 - Keys to Success:
 - Ensure a clear understanding of regulations that apply off the preserve
 - Avoid allowing participants to witness bird release
 - Avoid using bird launchers or inhibiting bird movement in any way
 - Do not mark bird locations in the field

STEP 4: SITE SELECTION



- **Base camp:** Shelter, restrooms, parking, shade, food, emergency communication.
- **Hunting areas:** Ample safe space, easy terrain, proximity to base camp.

STEP 5: EVENT DATE SELECTION

- Consider species, weather, volunteer availability, special hunting seasons
- National Hunting & Fishing Day (fourth Saturday of September) can add significance and media coverage

STEP 6: SAFETY & EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

- Check all firearms for safety
- Define firearm storage and transport
- Outline ammunition handling
- Specify personal protection gear (orange, eye and ear protection)
- Note event's emergency address
- Know nearest medical and vet facilities



STEP 7: AGENDA DEVELOPMENT

- Ensure thorough shooting practice before hunting.
- Tailor agenda to develop safe, confident, and ethical bird hunters.
- Consider multi-day programs to cultivate a social network of support for participants beyond the event
- Minimum training includes:
 - Introducing PF/QF Mission & Highlighting the role of hunters in conservation
 - **Firearms Safety and Wing Shooting led by experienced and compassionate instructors:**
 - Teach "Four Rules of Firearms Safety"
 1. Treat every firearm as loaded.
 2. Always point muzzle in safe direction.
 3. Be certain of target and beyond.
 4. Keep finger off trigger until ready to shoot.

- **Mock Hunt or Safety Course:**
 - Participants walk with mentors, practice safe gun handling and making ethical decisions (shots)
 - Create realistic scenarios for maximum benefit
- **Gaining access to private and public lands to hunt:**
 - Go over mapping tools like OnX
 - Can have a state wildlife agency representative to cover finding public lands
 - Discuss how to approach and interact with landowners
- **Gamebird Biology & Strategies:**
 - Learn about species, habitat, and regulations
 - Involve wildlife biologists and experienced hunters
- **Hunting With Dogs:**
 - Demonstrate dogs' role, and different breeds/types
 - Address safety concerns and proper positioning
 - Describe the trajectory of events when a dog gets 'birdy'

STEP 8: RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS

- **Hunt Coordinator:** Oversees event efficiency, safety, and troubleshooting.
- **Mentors:** Maintain a 1:1 ratio with participants in the field, walking within arm's reach of participants, ensuring safety and proper hunting etiquette
- **Dog Handler:** manage dogs in the field
- **Firearm Safety Instructors:** Ensure participants receive proper safety training
- **Support Volunteers:** Assist with registration, cooking, bird planting, etc.



STEP 9: CREATE THE EVENT AND RECRUIT PARTICIPANTS



- Create an online event within our national system using your chapter portal
 - Facilitates registration and payment (if applicable)
 - Share it to social media platforms
- Things to consider when choosing participants:
 - Base the number of participants on the availability of quality mentors
 - A smaller event can be more effective than a larger one (10 participants is a great number!)
 - Decide on the target demographic (youth, adults, women, etc.)
 - Check out this [webpage](#) for tips on hosting women's events
 - Ensure participants have completed a Hunter/Firearm Safety Course
 - Recruit those eager to learn but with limited hunting opportunities

NOTES ON MERCHANDISE:

Consider purchasing merchandise from our PF or QF store to support our wildlife conservation mission directly.

Our branded apparel not only fosters a sense of belonging but also promotes our cause effectively.

Explore our recommended items for your learn-to-hunt events at pfstore.org or qfstore.org.

- PF or QF Orange Hunting Vest
- PF or QF Orange Mesh Cap
- PF or QF Challenge Coin (includes firearm safety rules)

Visit pfstore.org or qfstore.org to get yours today!



NOTES ON MEMBERSHIP TO PF AND QF:

Encouraging event participants to join PF or QF is vital. Memberships support wildlife habitat, public land, and all the other work we do to ensure the future of birds and hunting. Consider offering memberships to all learn-to-hunt participants to engage them in our mission and conservation efforts through our publications.

DAY OF THE EVENT

Ensure preparedness, safety, and enjoyment:

- **Preparation:** Review agenda and roles with volunteers
- **Registration:** Collect participant information and ensure safety
- **Safety Check:** Ensure firearms brought by participants are safely handled.
- **Opening Remarks:** Discuss agenda, safety measures, and conservation
- **Comfort:** Provide snacks/food and water
- **Appreciation:** Thank volunteers and invite participants to future events
- **Feedback:** Distribute post-event surveys for constructive feedback
- **Take lots of photos!**

POST EVENT

Complete an event report through your chapter resource portal, send thank you cards to volunteers/partners, send event photos to huntingheritage@pheasantsforever.org

Congratulations and thank you for bringing new hunters into the uplands!

