



Learn to Hunt Volunteer Guidelines

Thank you! This event is only possible because of your time and dedication.

You have the most important job today: ensuring a safe and fun experience for everyone. You will be given a mentee to guide on this hunt. You are in charge.

Have a short pre-hunt meeting with your mentee. Introduce one another and discuss their experience as a hunter/gun handler. Explain that it will be the hunter's job to flush a bird that is sitting tight. This may involve walking directly in front of a pointing dog and nearly stepping on the bird. **No one should ever go in front of the hunters to flush a bird.** Watch our [Learn to Hunt Safety Video](#).

Explain the layout of the field/land and how you intend to hunt it. Talk about realistic goals for the hunt. Hitting a flying bird for experienced hunters is hard. A harvest is not necessary for a successful experience!



Restate the **Four Rules of Firearm Safety** and a few other specific safety concerns:

1. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
 2. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
 3. Be certain of your target and what is beyond it.
 4. Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.
- Safety must be on until you shoulder your gun.
 - While walking it is best to use a two-handed ready carry.
 - We are using dogs today- no shooting low birds or birds on the ground.
 - Understand that birds might fly right to left or left to right. If this is the case, be aware of your “zone of fire” (small window directly in front). DO NOT swing in front of your hunting partners.
 - If a bird flies up and behind you, DO NOT SHOOT or swing for it.

During the hunt:

- Be **vocal, patient, and kind**.
- **ALWAYS** stay within arm’s reach of your mentee: it is YOUR responsibility to ensure they are using safe zones of fire.
- Keep an eye on stamina. Water or a short break part-way through the hunt might be needed.
- Celebrate hits and misses! A shot off in the direction of the bird and seeing dog work = win

Thank you again! Expanding the upland community depends on people like you making a difference!