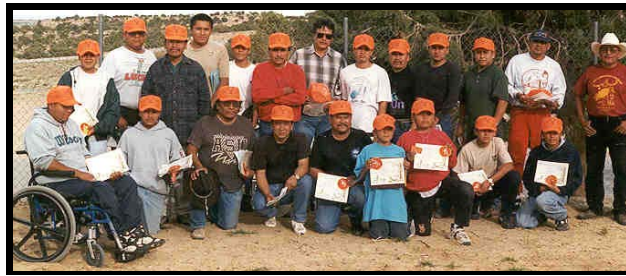


Navajo Nation Hunter Education Program (NNHEP) Promoting Safe, Responsible and Ethical Hunting Since 1989

*Hunter Education Promotes
Wildlife Conservation*
**Navajo Nation
Department of
Fish and Wildlife**



Hunter Education is for anyone– young and old

HUNTER EDUCATION CERTIFICATION IS REQUIRED!

- ◆ Persons 12 years of age or older may hunt big game.
- ◆ Children under 12 years of age may hunt small game without a permit, provided they are accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older holding a valid Navajo Nation Hunting Permit (big game is not included).

All individuals born after January 01, 1970 must successfully complete the NNHEP before receiving a permit to hunt on the Navajo Nation. NNHEP certificate must be in possession while hunting.

How do you become a safe certified hunter?

Attend the Navajo Nation Hunter Education Program

The Navajo Nation in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) started the Navajo Nation Hunter Education Program (NNHEP) in 1989. Since that time over 3,000 individuals have attended and are certified as safe hunters.

- ◆ Materials and other teaching aids are provided by the AZGFD through the Pittman-Robinson Act.
- ◆ The 11% excise tax you pay on firearms and hunting-equipment is returned to the state of Arizona to operate this program.
- ◆ NNHEP provides certified instructors.
- ◆ NNHEP certificates are honored in all states who require Hunter Education Certification.
- ◆ Each year 10,000 citizens of the Navajo Nation enjoy hunting.
- ◆ About half of these are youth 16 years old and younger.
- ◆ Target shooting is also a popular sport
- ◆ There are firearms of some sort in nearly every home.

The use of firearms on the Navajo Nation establishes a need for basic firearms education. Persons who handle firearms, should have a basic knowledge of firearm safety concepts.



Hunter Education promotes safe gun handling and shooting sports

THE TRAINING COURSE

The NNHEP is designed to teach:

- ◆ Safe responsible handling of firearms in the field and in the home
- ◆ Safe responsible hunting practices
- ◆ Promote hunter ethics

A minimum of 20 hours of classroom instruction and in-the-field experience is given. Generally, the course is taught 4 hours on Friday and 8 hours each for Saturday and Sunday. Instruction includes the following:

FIREARMS

- ◆ Rifles, shotguns, handguns, muzzleloaders
- ◆ Safe firearm handling procedures
- ◆ Proper storage and cleaning
- ◆ Ammunition use
- ◆ Proper storage
- ◆ The different types
- ◆ How to determine the right firearm
- ◆ Care of arms and ammunition

BOWHUNTING

- ◆ Safety
- ◆ Responsibility
- ◆ Bow-hunting techniques
- ◆ Limitations of the bow

HUNTER ETHICS AND RESPONSIBILITY

- ◆ Hunter/land user relationships
- ◆ Respect of wildlife
- ◆ Littering/vandalism
- ◆ The importance of hunter ethics
- ◆ Sound conservation practices
- ◆ Survival
- ◆ Game laws and regulation

HUNTING TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

- ◆ Game identification
- ◆ How to prepare for hunting trips

FIELD TRIP

- ◆ Hunting conditions are simulated; students fire at targets under close supervision

The most successful method of preventing firearms accidents is through education and training. On the Navajo Nation this is available through the NNHEP.



HOW TO ENROLL

For information on current classes contact the NNHEP Coordinator at the following address:

Navajo Nation Department of Fish &
Wildlife

P.O. Box 1480

Window Rock AZ 86515

(928) 871-6451



THE NNHEP HELPS CREATE A SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE PERSON

TESTING AND CERTIFICATION

- ◆ Written test is given and must be passed with a score of 70% for certification as a safe hunter.
- ◆ Each person who passes the course, receives
 1. Shoulder patch
 2. Wall certificate
 3. Wallet card

WHO TEACHES THE COURSE?

- ◆ The instructors volunteer from all over the Navajo Nation.
- ◆ Certified volunteers present the course
- ◆ Wildlife Conservation Officers/Volunteers who are experienced in the field
- ◆ Are covered by liability insurance

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO TAKE THE COURSE?

- ◆ Any person, 10 years of age or older
- ◆ Family participation is highly recommended
- ◆ Anyone who was issued a wildlife violation citation
- ◆ Hunters and non-hunters who are interested in wildlife conservation.

WHEN AND WHERE CLASSES ARE HELD?

Arrangements can be made depending on the instructor:

- ◆ Most courses will be held at the main office in Window Rock, AZ
- ◆ To initiate a course: 10-15 participants is required

HAS THE COURSE REDUCED FIREARMS ACCIDENTS?

- ◆ Education/training reduces trial and error for the beginning hunter
- ◆ Today's trained graduates are safer educated hunters than before the NNHEP began
- ◆ As more are trained and as the young persons grow older, hunting on the Navajo Nation will become even safer