

NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge

A Program of the
National Rifle Association of America

Do you enjoy hunting? Would you like the opportunity to enhance your skills and learn more about hunting methods and game species with hunters your own age? Then the National Rifle Association of America's Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) is for you.

LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT EVERY ASPECT OF HUNTING



The YHEC is a program exclusively for hunter education course graduates from North America up to 19 years of age. The program provides them with a unique opportunity to test their skills at a variety of hunting techniques. From firing at life-sized game targets with a rifle, bow and muzzle-loader to participating in wildlife identification and a map and compass course, participants walk away with an appreciation of all methods of take and all types of game as they learn from the top hunting educators in all of North America! Because events are conducted in simulated hunting conditions, YHEC provides the best test of a young hunter's skills short of an actual situation afield. This training ensures the future of the American hunting tradition as a safe, viable recreational activity the entire family can enjoy.

After completing a hunter education course, youths wishing to participate in YHEC begin working with sponsoring organizations such as 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts of America, state or provincial hunter education programs, local schools, sportsmen's groups or interested individuals to form groups to take part in regional or state level programs. Though participants are scored and ranked in all YHEC events, the program's competitive edge is dimin-

ished as the real "challenge" focuses on personal improvement.

Therefore, in addition to top-ranked individuals and teams drawn from the more than 15,000 annual competitors in state and provincial YHECs, all are invited to participate in the annual NRA International YHEC event which rotates in location throughout the United States.

THE EVENTS!

The YHEC is comprised of the following eight events with shooting activities permitting the use of only those sporting arms used primarily for hunting:

Rifle and Muzzleloading -

incorporate firing at life-sized game targets at various distances where only hits in vital areas are scored;

Shotgun -

provides shooting over a sporting clays course that simulates different bird hunting situations;

Archery -

designed as a walk-through field course where participants fire at life-sized 3-D game targets at various distances;



Orienteering - serves as a map-and-compass course that applies orienteering skills useful to every hunter;

Wildlife Identification -

tests participant's ability to identify game animals by tracks, bones, hides, feathers and wildlife signs;

Hunter Safety Trail -

presents actual field conditions testing safety and legal issues requiring participants to make responsible, educated decisions;

Hunter Responsibility Exam -

tests safety, ethics and advanced hunter knowledge;

THE FUN!

In addition to scheduled events, specialized clinics on topics such as game calling, reloading and specialized hunting techniques spark interest in YHEC, and go hand-in-hand with the program's varied historical demonstrations, wildlife tours and social events for both participants and instructors.

So why not join the countless volunteers, sponsors, and families this year and become involved in one of the many local, state or provincial Youth Hunter Education Challenge programs across North America or the week-long International event conducted every summer? To learn more about the NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge or to join the NRA, call 1-800-672-3888, or

visit our website at www.nra.org.



*Through letters, phone calls,
and articles, YHEC coaches, parents,
and participants share feedback
with NRA staff*

"...every time a tragedy involving kids and firearms occurs, local media converge on their local Sheriff for footage - What are you doing about the problem? etc....Most Sheriffs want and need a program to reduce firearms misuse by youngsters while providing them with a wholesome... and viable alternative to bad life choices...YHEC is the perfect avenue for both."

John C. Hemeyer — YHEC parent



"I like YHEC because it teaches safe gun handling, responsibility and the importance of safety while hunting. For the (YHEC) Challenge, you have to work and study hard in order to do your best. For me, YHEC is really a family event and includes hunter ethics I have been taught all my life. It can give kids an alternative to trouble."

Allen Treadwell
— former YHEC participant

"YHEC tests skills and knowledge that all responsible hunters should be developing. If you enjoy hunting and shooting, this program is for you!"

Nick Muckerman — International
YHEC Junior Champion and outdoor writer

"YHEC is a great experience that gives a person respect for the outdoors, wildlife, yourself and others. It is a challenge that is all fun!"

Cassandra Pinkel - YHEC participant

"It is extremely important to teach the next generation about hunting safety and ethics. By teaching youths these essential principles, the YHEC prevents the unnecessary destruction of wildlife. Both youths and their parents agree — the YHEC is a priceless program."

Glen Stollings - YHEC Coach

YHEC "rocks."

Lacie Everage - YHEC participant

The NRA and Hunting

Well-managed hunting is a beneficial use of renewable wildlife resources that when left to nature, are lost to predation, disease, starvation or old age. Proper hunting is in complete accord with the moral tenets and historical facts of human existence. The hunting heritage predates recorded history by many centuries. The hunter's participation in the chase today is a healthy exercise, both physically and spiritually.

The hunter's interest in wildlife has been the principal factor in fostering sound management and conservation practices. Provision for the hunter's harvest provides the incentive for the hunter's contribution, without all else would be lost. The commitment of the hunter's contributions of voluntary taxing, licensing and regulation assure the propagation of all wildlife.

Hunting is dominant among American tradition and has contributed substantially to our strong national character. Its future is a primary concern of the NRA.



**NRA
SPORTS**

**NRA Youth
Hunter Education
Challenge**

