



BASIC HUNTER EDUCATION course – Field Day agenda

Blended Learning format – requires online study & an 8-hour in-person class which includes two rounds of hands-on learning stations and the final exam. A minimum of 5 instructors is needed to follow this agenda.

This agenda is specifically for Basic Hunter Ed courses taught using a Blended Learning format which combines online learning and in-person face-to-face instruction. In this format, students first complete the Massachusetts Hunter safety study guide on their own before attending the Field Day for hands-on practice and to take the final exam. MassWildlife Hunter Ed staff will verify the homework submission before officially enrolling a student in the Field Day session to complete the course.

This Field Day agenda includes two lectures and a two rounds of hands-on learning stations that requires a minimum of five instructors to execute. For the hands-on stations, four of the instructors will be the principal teachers at four different learning stations while a fifth team member will serve as the timekeeper.

It is the task of the timekeeper to manage the schedule by keeping all instructors apprised of their time and to move the student groups to the next consecutive learning station at the appropriate time.

Procedure: Immediately start the clock for the first 25-minute round, once the student groups are directed to go to their first learning station. Watch the clock and give the instructors notice when five minutes remain. Move the group(s) at the end of the allotted time and again, immediately start the 25-minute allotment. Repeat to allow each group to visit each station. Instructors must discharge their students at the end of the allotted time and be ready to receive the next group.

When scheduling a Blended learning course, one factor in determining the maximum number of students is a preferred student-to-station ratio of 8:1 when teaching the hands-on stations. However, a smaller ratio is better and a maximum ratio of 10:1 is acceptable. Thus, for a course with 4 stations per Round Robin, the maximum number is 40 students (4 stations @ 10:1 = 40 maximum).

Lastly, while the specific start and end times can be different based on when your venue is available, the amount of time allotted for each segment should not be adjusted.

Use this link to view the entire [Instructor manual for Basic Hunter Ed](#) and the resources available to teach the lesson. (i.e., slide shows, student worksheets, etc.)

BASIC HUNTER EDUCATION course -Blended Learning Format

Field Day agenda

In-person class – 8-hour agenda (8:00 am - 4:00 pm)

7:00 – 8:00 Set up for first round of hands-on learning stations.

7:30am Greet students as they arrive, use the roster, ensure all students complete a registration form correctly.

Walk-in students can be accepted into this class but must prove completion of the MA Hunter Study guide to join. Make note on the student's registration form that the homework was seen and verified as complete.

8:00 – 8:30 Introduction - prepare the students for this interactive class.

- Explain the itinerary and introduce instructors.
- Provide quick review of parts of firearm and demonstrate how to safely transfer and accept a firearm.
- Lead all students in the "Finding your Master Eye" exercise found on page 24 in the student manual.
- Explain the procedure for the hands-on stations and divide the students into four (4) groups.

8:30 – 10:10 **1st Round Robin** – Four hands-on learning stations will be conducted simultaneously. At least one instructor will be assigned to each station. The four (4) groups of students will rotate every **25 minutes** among the four (4) stations.

1. Firearm Handling (Pump and Bolt) [Lesson 7](#)

(Start with Pump. Have all students do the exercise. Continue with the Bolt action as time allows. A second instructor assigned to this learning station is helpful)

2. Firearm Handling (Break) – [Lesson 7](#) & Crossing Obstacles – [Lesson 12](#)

3. Fundamentals of Shooting – [Lesson 9](#)

4. Treestand Safety – [Lesson 18](#)

10:10 -10:20 **Break**

10:20-11:35 **Hunting Laws and Regulations & Responsibility ([Lesson 4](#))** – Environmental police are notified about these events. Be prepared to present this lesson if an officer is not available.

11:35-12:05 **Lunch Break** and get student's ready for next Round Robin

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12:05 – 1:45 **2nd Round Robin** – Four hands-on learning stations will be conducted simultaneously. At least one instructor will be assigned to each station. The four (4) groups of students will rotate every **25 minutes** among the four (4) stations.

1. Judgment & Shot Placement – [Lesson 16](#)
2. Field Carries [Lesson 11](#) & Zones of Fire [Lesson 13](#) (Start with Field carries and have three students do this exercise then switch to Zones of Fire. Have remaining students do this exercise. A second instructor assigned to this learning station is helpful)
3. Intro to Archery [Lesson 19](#)
4. Big Game Recovery – [Lesson 17](#)

1:45-1:55 **Break**

1:55-2:30 **Hunting Opportunities** – [Lesson 6](#)

2:30 **Final Exam** – (the entire [student testing procedure](#) is available online)

Lead instructor will...

1. Answer any remaining questions.
2. Explain testing procedure (no time limit to take exam, how to change an answer, no sharing of answers). This is a closed book exam and is designed to assess a student's individual knowledge.
3. Offer verbal testing option.
4. Explain what to do after completing the exam.

One instructor will be assigned to monitor the class to answer questions and receive the exam and the answer sheet. Answer sheets are given to one instructor to correct the exams. Then given to another to verify work.

At least one Instructor should be ready ("on call") to read the exam to those who wish to take the exam verbally. Students who failed on first attempt and wish to try again may want a verbal option. Student must complete the entire exam (all 50 questions) if they wish to try again.

4:00 **Closing Comments (these can also be opening comments or both)**

1. Certificates are issued to graduates within two weeks after class.
2. Hunting licenses can be obtained at vendor locations and online. This info is also included in a letter with their certificate.
3. Additional education opportunities (i.e., advance hunter ed; Learn-to-hunt)
4. How to be more involved. (i.e., MDFW volunteer opportunities).