







INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

LESSON 11: FIELD CARRIES

V. 8/2023

Basic Hunter Education 2014 Standards – Section 2

Objective 26

<p><u>Instructor Notes</u></p> 	<p>This lesson introduces the students to proper field carries which refers to the how you hold your firearm while you hunt in a group. This lesson corresponds with Chapter 2 (pages 33 & 34) in the student manual. Teach this lesson as part of a round robin with a small group (4-8) of students.</p> <p>Teaching Methods Used In This Lesson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstration• Student hands-on activity
<p><u>Time Suggested</u></p> 	<p>15 Minutes</p>
<p><u>Materials Required</u></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three firearms (including one with a sling)
<p><u>Station Set-up</u></p>  <p>5 minutes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Have three “firearms” within reach. Make sure one has a sling.

Vocabulary
Builder



Note: Do not read the vocabulary to the students. These are terms commonly used during this lesson, and the definitions are for instructor reference.

Cradle carry – A one or two-handed carry in which the barrel of the firearm is cradled in the bend of one arm and the wrist of the stock is held in either hand.

Elbow carry – Transporting a firearm with the forearm of the firearm hooked over your elbow. Muzzle is pointed toward the ground.

Port arms/two hand/ready carry – Gripping a firearm with both hands, carrying it diagonally across the chest with the muzzle pointing up. This is sometimes done with the barrel pointing down as well.




Shoulder carry – Carrying a firearm by resting the barrel on your shoulder with the muzzle pointed up.

Sling carry – Transporting a firearm by hanging it from one shoulder by use of a sling. Muzzle is pointed in the air.

Trail/field carry – Transporting a firearm by gripping the firearm in one hand. Muzzle is pointed toward the ground.

Wrist of the stock – The part of the stock where the trigger hand is placed.

LESSON PLAN

<p><u>PART A:</u></p> <p><u>Focus Activity</u></p>  <p>1 minute</p>	<p>The purpose of the focus activity is to get everyone focused on the lesson. Say: A proper "field carry" refers to how you hold your firearm while hunting in a group. Ask: "Do you remember from your reading how many methods of field carries are discussed"?</p>
<p><u>PART B:</u></p> <p><u>Objectives</u></p>  <p>1 minute</p>	<p>State the learning objective to the students. "At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • choose a proper firearm carry method, while hunting alone and with others."
<p><u>PART C:</u></p> <p><u>Teaching Method</u></p>  <p>5 minutes</p>	<p>Say: We will discuss the six commonly used carries and when to use them. But regardless of which method is used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always maintain muzzle control. Safe muzzle control will dictate the proper carrying position to use in any given situation. • Keep your fingers outside the trigger guard. • Keep your safety on until ready to fire. <p>Ask: "Can anyone name one of the six common ways of safely carrying a firearm while afield?"</p> <p>As the students name the different carry methods, demonstrate, and describe each and explain when it should and should not be used. <i>Remember to emphasize safe muzzle control especially while transitioning from one carry to another:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cradle carry can be a one-handed or two-handed carry. The firearm is held across the belly. The grip is held in either hand while the mid-point of the fore end is cradled in the crook of one elbow. Muzzle pointed

to the side. It's a comfortable secure way to carry a firearm and it reduces arm fatigue, but this position is not as secure as a two-hand carry. Use it when others are behind or in front of you, but never to the side where the muzzle is pointing.

- **shoulder carry** - one hand grasps the firearm at the grip or the butt of the gun while the mid-point of the firearm rests on the shoulder. Muzzle pointed up. This is the least safe of all carries as you have little control over the firearm should you fall. Never use it when someone is behind you or while walking on rough terrain.
- **trail carry** - the firearm is gripped firmly with one hand at the balance point, usually just in front of the action. Muzzle pointed toward the ground. It leaves a hand free for balance, but don't use when debris can get in barrel. This carry offers poor control of your firearm should you fall. Use it when hunting alone or when others are behind you or to your side. Never use this carry when someone is walking ahead of you.
- **two hand (ready) carry** - grip the firearm with both hands and carry it diagonally across the chest with the muzzle pointing up. This is one of the safest carry positions, offering good muzzle control while allowing you to get into shooting position quickly. Use this carry when others are in front of or behind you. Never use it when someone is on the same side that the muzzle is pointed.
- **elbow (side) carry** - Firearm is held to the side of the body, tucked under the armpit and over the arm in front of the elbow. Muzzle pointed forward. A safe method when walking in open terrain, but in brush, branches tend to catch the gun. Comfortable but gives the least amount of muzzle control. Use it when others are behind

or to your side, but not when they are in front of you. With a break action firearm, when the action is open it balances nicely on forearm, muzzle points further downward. Another plus is that others can see at a glance that the action is open, and the firearm is safe.

- **sling carry** - The arm placed through the sling; the firearm is hung from the shoulder with the muzzle pointing upwards. When standing, this carry method frees up your hands for things such as scanning terrain with binoculars. When walking, one hand grasps the sling for a snug fit to keep the firearm from slipping off the shoulder. This is an easy carry for long walks through open country, however this is a poor method when walking on difficult terrain or in heavy brush.


PART D:

**Student
Exercise**



7 minutes

- Have three students come forward and have each appropriately receive a “firearm” and then hold it using the two-handed carry.
- Have the students get in a single file. Then ask each student from front to back of the line to name and demonstrate another carry that is safe to use. Coach/Critique as needed.
- Ask the remaining students if they agree and then to name another.
- Have the next group of three students come forward and appropriately receive the firearms from the first group.
- Line them up three abreast (as if they were quail or pheasant hunting) and ask them to name/demonstrate a safe carry method for their position in line. Coach/Critique as needed. **Hint:** *Have this group face away from the rest of the class as if they were facing down range. This will make it easier to maintain muzzle control.*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the remaining students if they agree and then to name another. • If time remains, you could also arrange students in a small group to simulate a group of hunters standing around talking and ask them to demonstrate a safe carry. • Throughout this exercise observe how the students obey instruction, mind their muzzles (in relation to each other and the class) and keep fingers off triggers. Extensive coaching will most likely be needed. Give praise throughout and also at the conclusion to the entire group.
<p><u>PART E:</u></p> <p><u>Student Summary</u></p>  <p>1 minutes</p>	<p>Ask students to recall the important topics that were covered in the lesson. It is important for students to be able to voice these points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the six (6) common methods to safely carry a firearm? • If I had someone standing in front of me, which carry could I not use? • If I had someone standing behind me, which carry could I not use? • If I had someone standing beside me, which carry could I not use? <p>END OF LESSON</p>

Addendum

A



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Does it matter if the firearm is loaded or not?




A responsible firearm user treats every firearm as if it were loaded, whether it actually is or not.




2. If the safety is engaged, does it matter where I point the firearm?

Yes, again, treat every firearm as if it were loaded.

3. What about when my firearm is in the case, do I need to carry it the same way?

Typically when a firearm is in the case, the safest way to carry it is by the handle similar to a field/trail carry. However, muzzle control should be maintained at all times.

Instructor Clue Card	
	<p>Two-hand (ready) carry— grip the firearm with both hands and carry it diagonally across the chest with the muzzle pointing up. This is one of the safest carry positions, offering good muzzle control while allowing you to get into shooting position quickly. Use this carry when others are in front of or behind you. Never use it when someone is on the same side that the muzzle is pointed.</p>
	<p>Cradle carry— can be a one-handed or two-handed carry. The firearm is held across the belly. The grip is held in either hand while the mid-point of the fore end is cradled in the crook of one elbow. Muzzle pointed to the side. It's a comfortable secure way to carry a firearm and it reduces arm fatigue, but this position is not as secure as a two-hand carry. Use it when others are behind or in front of you, but never to the side where the muzzle is pointing.</p>
	<p>Elbow (side) carry— Firearm is held to the side of the body, tucked under the armpit and over the arm in front of the elbow. Muzzle pointed forward. A safe method when walking in open terrain, but in brush, branches tend to catch the gun. Comfortable but gives the least amount of muzzle control. Use it when others are behind or to your side, but not when they are in front of you.</p> <p>With a break action firearm, when the action is open it balances nicely on forearm, muzzle points farther downward. Another plus is that others can see at a glance that the action is open, and the firearm is safe.</p>

	<p>Trail carry— the firearm is gripped firmly with one hand at the balance point, usually just in front of the action. Muzzle pointed toward the ground. It leaves a hand free for balance, but don't use when debris can get in barrel. This carry offers poor control of your firearm should you fall. Use it when hunting alone or when others are behind you or to your side. Never use this carry when someone is walking ahead of you.</p>
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	<p>Shoulder carry— one hand grasps the firearm at the grip or the butt of the gun while the mid-point of the firearm rests on the shoulder. Muzzle pointed up. This is the least safe of all carries as you have little control over the firearm should you fall. Never use it when someone is behind you or while walking on rough terrain.</p>