



Instructions for Students attending the Independent Study Trapper Education Course

The Independent Study Trapper Education course is an alternative format to the traditional Trapper Education course. In the Independent Study format, students are guided by an instructor team and take the same course as students in a traditional course, but will work independently to complete some of the required course work. Independent Study students will use an online course or use a student manual combined with a workbook to complete the essential homework assignments, which will earn them credit towards a Massachusetts Trapper Education Certificate.

This essential homework is only part of the course.

Students *must* also attend two class sessions and PASS the final exam to earn their certificate.

The main advantage with the Independent Study format is that this format offers a flexible learning option at a distance. It allows the student to complete some of the necessary coursework on their own, therefore, reducing the time spent in a classroom. This format does require as much time and effort as a traditional course and will require students to plan their schedule to successfully complete the program in the allotted time. The Independent Study format is a good option for students with tight schedules who are self-motivated, conscientious, and learn well on their own.

Students 17 Years old and Younger must have parental consent to attend courses. **Parents and Guardians** are invited and encouraged to stay during the class sessions. This format may be difficult for students less than 16 years of age unless they receive guidance while completing the home study coursework.

How to complete the Independent Study course:

1. **ATTEND THE FIRST CLASS SESSION.** Obtain instruction on course requirements, receive study materials including the student manual, and receive lessons on Trapping laws and Massachusetts Furbearer Management.
2. **COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE NECESSARY HOMEWORK.** Either complete the **Trapper Education Workbook** and bring it to the field day **or** complete the online tutorial <https://conservationlearning.org/> including the associated end-of-section quizzes. **If you use the online tutorial, print the course completion voucher and bring it to the field day. Only students who complete the homework may attend and participate in the field day.**

3. **PARTICIPATE IN THE FIELD DAY AND TAKE THE FINAL EXAM.** At the field day, students participate in a number of hands-on activities. Class participation and performance is a factor in determining successful completion of the trapper education course. Students are expected to demonstrate safe handling of equipment and a mature and responsible attitude toward wildlife and people. There is a final written exam. Students must pass the exam with a score of 80% or better.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FIELD DAY

- a. Dress for the weather. Activities will occur outdoors rain or shine.
- b. Bring a bag lunch, snacks, and plenty to drink and/or a reusable water bottle.

4 Tips to Help You Successfully Complete the Course

1. **DO THE HOMEWORK.** You will not be allowed to participate in the field day activities if you have not completed the homework. Additionally, if you do not take the time to do the home study portion, you will find it very difficult to pass the final exam.
For the homework, you have 2 options:
 - a. The first option is the **Trapper Education Workbook** which is designed to strengthen the knowledge you acquire by reading and studying the Trapper Education Manual: A Guide for Trappers in the United States. The workbook is 33 pages long and is divided into 18 chapters. We suggest you read and understand one chapter of the student manual at a time and then complete the corresponding section in the workbook, answering all questions. Bring the completed workbook to the field day.
 - b. The second option is take the online tutorial <https://conservationlearning.org/> including the associated end-of-section quizzes. This Trapper Education course includes 17 sections each with a quiz. Complete the quizzes at the end of each section. Once you have passed all seventeen quizzes, you'll unlock a printable course completion voucher. Print this document and bring it to the Field day.
2. **MAKE IT A JOINT EFFORT.** Get help and discuss the lessons. It's OK to do the homework with your family and friends as long as each person understands every lesson and can complete the workbook/pass the quizzes on their own.
3. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.** Plan your work time now. The homework usually takes 6 to 10 hours to complete.
4. **REMEMBER TO BRING THE COMPLETED ASSIGNMENT TO THE FIELD DAY.** Bring a copy of the online Completion Voucher or bring the completed workbook to the field day. Only students who complete and submit the homework may attend and participate in the field day.

Contact the Hunter Education Program if you have any questions or need assistance.
We can be reached at **(508) 389-7820** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday or by email at hunter.education@state.ma.us