



Hunter Information & Training Program News

Spring 2020

Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

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DID YOU KNOW?

Antlers are the fastest growing tissue in any mammal, and a big bull moose can grow an 80-pound rack in a summer, adding a pound of bone and an inch a day.



I thought about changing the title of this column to “COVID Corner” instead of “Coordinator’s Corner” but decided against it since so much of our lives have revolved around COVID-19 for the past few months.

Even though we canceled classes from the end of March through May, it has still been a noteworthy spring for the HIT Program. First, thank you to everyone who completed the online instructor survey in April. Your responses are extremely helpful and will help us continue to advance the HIT Program in a strategic manner. By random draw, we chose three winners from those instructors who completed the survey and they will receive a Cabela’s gift card. The winners are:

Marc Cloward of Cordova

Jesse Kiehl of Juneau

Tia Shoemaker of Wasilla

We’ll be reviewing the survey answers closely over the next few months and addressing items brought to our attention. A couple noteworthy items at first glance are:

- Over 74% of responders always read the newsletter. Some instructors are interested in receiving the quarterly newsletter via email and others like a printed version. Those who have expressed interest will receive the newsletters via email from now on.
- There is interest in First Aid/CPR/Wilderness First Aid and Teaching Principles/ Classroom Management for instructor continuing education. We’ll be looking into offering opportunities later this fall/winter.
- Over 80% of the responders were satisfied with the recognition provided to instructors. We will continue to pass along any discount opportunities that vendors/supporters offer to volunteer instructors and will also continue with our current programs. If you hear about additional discounts, please let HIT Program staff know so we can share these with all instructors.
- The request for increased advertising of offered classes was a common response to multiple questions. We will definitely look into ways to increase public knowledge about certification courses in Alaskan communities.
- Time management of instructors and length of classes was also a common response. HIT Program staff and the Steering Group will add this to our agenda to discuss in the upcoming year.

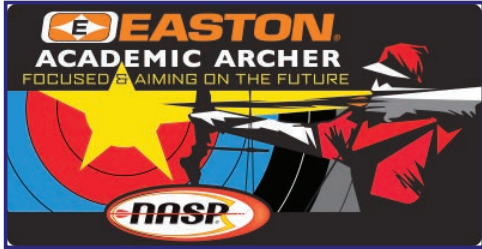
Only 75 instructors so far are working on completing the new Kalkomey online instructor course. It contains helpful teaching information, is a great continuing education opportunity, and only takes 2-3 hours to complete. If you are interested in taking this continuing education course, please email me for the course link and payment code (the course fee is covered by the HIT Program).



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2019-2020 NASP Academic Archer Update



In 2015 the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) developed an internal program called the

Academic Archer Program. This program was created to encourage students, while participating as NASP archers, to keep their grades up through a uniform incentive and recognition format (following the guidelines of their school's honor roll classification). Since the start of the Academic Archer program, Alaska has increased its numbers steadily with a total of 379 archers participating. During the 2019-2020 school year, Alaska added 76 new archers to the program, which was an 88% increase from previous years. Congratulations to all the schools who encouraged their students to keep their grades up and become Academic Archers!

If you would like to learn more about NASP or the Academic Archer program, please contact the Alaska NASP Coordinator Katelyn Zonneville at 907-267-2534 or katelyn.zonneville@alaska.gov.



Fronteras Spanish Immersion School and Teeland Middle School 2019-2020 Academic Archers

Welcome to Our New Volunteer Instructors

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all new volunteer instructors who have joined us since the publication of our last newsletter. Congratulations and welcome aboard!

Hunter Education:

Anchorage: Ryan Schmidt, Raymond Saft, Craig Starr

Eagle River: Stuart Barrows, Lucas Groom

Fairbanks: Elizabeth Hughes-Hegeman, Rachel Ann Mitchell, John O'Brien

North Pole: Cordell Gray

Palmer: Colleen Darrell

Tanana: Albert Brower, Arnold Marks Jr

Tatitlek: Michael Paulsen

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the majority of our spring instructor trainings due to COVID-19. We've rescheduled many of these to the fall and look forward to adding more instructors to our roster. Please encourage students, family members, and acquaintances to fill out the instructor application if you think they'll be a great addition to the HIT Program. The application is available online (www.huntereducation.alaska.gov) and printed copies have been included in all class paperwork boxes or cabinets. You can also ask HIT Program staff to email you or a potential candidate the application directly.

Instructors are our BEST recruiters of new instructors!

Hunter Education

Anchorage — October 23 & 24

Juneau — November 6 & 7

Fairbanks — November 13 & 14

Bowhunter Education

Anchorage — October 9 & 10

Fairbanks — October 23 & 24

Muzzleloader Education

Anchorage — September 26 & 27

Crossbow Education

Anchorage — September 26

[IHEA Instructor Resource Site](#)



[HIT Program Site](#)



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New COVID-19 Protocols for Certification Courses

The HIT Program has developed new cleaning and disinfection procedures that we are asking instructors to follow while conducting certification courses. The specifics for each certification course are being emailed to instructors as an attachment to the confirmation email sent out by regional HIT Program staff a couple weeks before a scheduled class. We understand that everyone has their own comfort level, and may not be interested in teaching classes right away. We ask that you keep in contact with your regional HIT Program staff and let us know when you'd like to jump back into teaching.

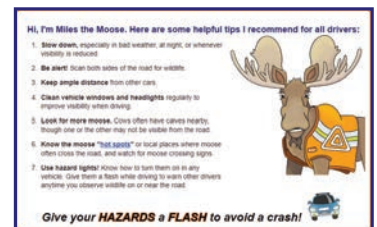
Here are the details from the Protocols cover page.

- No more than 20 individuals total per class (this includes students AND instructors). Student class sizes have been reduced to 16 students or less depending on the location. We will schedule two or three instructors per class only. We are still allowing parents to attend classes with their kids if space is available and we do not exceed the 20 individuals rule.
- Cleaning supplies will be provided by HIT Program staff for use by instructors during certification courses. Cleaning supplies will consist of either disinfectant wipes or disinfectant bottled cleaner, paper towels, and nitrile gloves (for instructors to wear during class cleanup).
- We will be working off the assumption that all items needed for your class have been disinfected after the prior class, but you will still want to wipe down items as they are set out for your class.
- We will encourage students and instructors to wear masks as advised by the CDC and state guidelines.
- We will encourage students to bring their own eye and ear protection in the pre-class reminder emails, however we will have all ample supplies of both for the students to use and keep.
- The items listed below for each certification course are designed to minimize how many people are in close proximity or physically handle the items used during the courses.
- If you have any questions about these new protocols, please contact your local HIT Program staff prior to instructing.

Staying Safe in Moose & Bear Country

There is always an increase in wildlife encounters as Alaskans head outside to recreate and enjoy the summer weather. ADF&G has lots of resources that you can share with your students who ask questions about being moose and bear aware.

- ADF&G website-Living with Wildlife
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livewith.main>
- Handouts available at ADF&G offices or by mail
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game-Official Facebook page



HIT Steering Group

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Instructor Notes

FYI-The following paragraph has been added to the reminders emailed to all students by regional HIT Program staff prior to each certification course.

Important information regarding COVID-19:

We will strive to meet social distancing and sanitary recommendations during our certification courses, however due to certain required activities there will be some contact with other students and volunteer instructors. If you are uncomfortable with this, please reschedule to a later class date <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=huntered.field>

- We encourage students and instructors to wear masks following CDC guidelines.
- We encourage you to bring your own eye and ear protection, however we will have new eye and ear protection available for each student.
- We have limited the class size based on facility capabilities. We encourage parents to attend class with their child if there is space. Please speak with the instructors when checking your son/daughter in to see if there will be space.
- We will be sanitizing frequently used areas and equipment throughout the class.
- If you are under quarantine per current state guidelines or are feeling ill, please reschedule to a later class.

Alaskan Certification Course Fees



The online hunter education course fee will increase in July from \$15 to \$19.95. The online course fees go directly to Kalkomey, our online

course provider for the development, care, and maintenance of each course website. Kalkomey has been a great partner since Alaska started our online course option over ten years ago. They provide expertise that we do not have in-house and great customer service to our students.

Here is a list of the course fees in case potential students ask you.

- Online Hunter Ed-\$19.95 and Instructor-led Hunter Ed: \$10
- Online Bowhunter Ed: \$30 and Instructor-led Bowhunter Ed: \$10
- Online Muzzleloader Ed: \$34.50 and Instructor-led Muzzleloader Ed: \$20
- Online Crossbow Ed: \$30

We are able to waive course fees on an individual basis for low-income license holders and often waive course fees for school classes.

HIT Staff

Contact Information

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**A very happy and proud
Juneau middle school
student with instructor
Doug Larsen**