



# Hunter Information & Training Program News

Spring 2022

## Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

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**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Hunting in the US  
generates 970 million  
pounds of meat each year.  
This is the equivalent of  
3.8 billion meals with a  
4-oz serving of meat!

As the saying goes, “April showers bring May flowers.” After a long and snowy winter, I believe we’re all ready for change! The HIT Program is experiencing some major changes:

1. Cindy Palmatier retired at the end of April. Cindy was with the HIT Program for almost 5 years and became a go-to for students and instructors with questions. We wish her the best in retirement and thank her for all of her many contributions to keeping the HIT Program behind-the-scenes running. She will be missed!



2. The HIT Program is phasing out Instructor-led Hunter Ed classes in 2022 and plans to transition into offering only public Online Hunter Ed Field Days in 2023. This decision is based on the following information:

- Attendance records show that students are more interested in the Online Hunter Ed Field Day option and are more likely to show up for class. Students can’t sign-up to attend a class until they’ve completed the online portion and passed the test. We have a number of Instructor-led students who cancel at the last minute when they realize that they can’t finish the workbook in time for class.

Hunter Ed	Online Classes	Instructor-led Classes
2017	64	58
2018	88	47
2019	79	34
2020	76	22
2021	98	27
2022 (scheduled)	111	9
<b>Certified Students:</b>	<b>5,518</b>	<b>2,215</b>

- Finding instructors to teach the 8-hour Instructor-led Hunter Ed class has become extremely difficult.
- The important hands-on, take-away components are included in the field day (Last Shot video, non-functional firearms handling exercise, live fire proficiency shoot, field course).
- The message consistency between classes that we’re delivering to students is better when there is less lecture time.
- We’ve offered only Online Bowhunter Ed Field Days since 2019 and haven’t received any public complaints.

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## Coordinator's Corner Continued

The HIT Program staff and Steering Group have taken this opportunity to review and rewrite the Online Hunter Ed Field Day Lesson Plan. **A new copy is enclosed with this newsletter. Please be sure to read through the new Lesson Plan (orange cover) before teaching your next class as there are several changes to content and format.** We are also in the process of reviewing the online course to ensure our students are getting the best information possible.

Important items to note:

- **Please use the new Lesson Plan (orange cover) starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. This will give you time to read through it, make notes, and contact staff with any questions. The new Lesson Plan takes 5-hours depending on the class size, and class times have been adjusted accordingly for this summer/fall.**
- The Instructor-led class was originally designed as a compromise between the original, more lengthy Home Study class and the Online Field Day in 2008.
- If you and other instructors want to teach an Instructor-led class together, please work with your local HIT Program staff to add a class to the calendar.
- Student packets will be available upon request for schools or other private groups (church, scouts, etc.) to use. Currently schools are using both the online course or the workbook depending on their student and classroom needs.
- If someone has already purchased and completed the workbook then we will work with them to attend an Online Field Day. If they haven't completed the workbook but already paid for it then we'll provide a free code for them to complete the online course.
- We will record feedback received from public comments/complaints and can adjust our program plans accordingly
- If you have any questions, please reach out to me directly (907-267-2196 or [ginamaria.smith@alaska.gov](mailto:ginamaria.smith@alaska.gov)).



3. Interest in the Instructor-led Muzzleloader Ed classes has dropped dramatically. Our number of certified students is also decreasing and we feel we've met the public need at this time. As such, in 2023 we will move to offering only Online Muzzleloader Ed field days. We will offer the Instructor-led Muzzleloader Ed class as a clinic (just like it originally started) for people interested in learning more about muzzleloaders without having to purchase one. We'll be in touch with current muzzleloader instructors to see who would be interested in helping teach the clinics.

4. We've seen a large increase in interest in our Alaskans Afield clinics and Becoming an Outdoors Woman classes. Many of you are lifelong hunters, shooting sports enthusiasts, or have additional skillsets in orienteering, wilderness first-aid, survival, etc. and we'd like to put this knowledge to use. We'd like to offer more clinics/classes to provide the next step for hunter ed students or new hunters to obtain additional skills/knowledge towards making them safer and more responsible hunters. If you're interested in teaching a clinic in the upcoming year, please contact our Outreach & Education Coordinator Katelyn Zonneville (907-267-2534 or [katelyn.zonneville@alaska.gov](mailto:katelyn.zonneville@alaska.gov)).



**IHEA Instructor Resource Site**  
<https://www.ihca-usa.org/>  
<https://www.expertvoice.com/ihca/>  
**HIT Program Site**  
[www.huntereducation.alaska.gov](http://www.huntereducation.alaska.gov)



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## Anna Petersen-Statewide Program Tech



My name is Anna Petersen. I am happy to introduce myself as the new Statewide Program Technician for the HIT Program, based in the ADF&G Anchorage office.

I was born and raised in Anchorage and attended the University of Alaska Anchorage for a B.S. in Environment & Society. I completed internships at the U.S. Forest Service in Girdwood and ADFG's Division of Subsistence in Anchorage. During all of that time, I also held a job at Moose's Tooth for the past 11 years, but I am excited for this new transition I am making with the HIT Program. I am excited that this new position will give me the opportunity to not only help the HIT Program team, but also empower people in learning to become more capable and confident hunters.

When I am not at the office, I like to spend my time hiking, fishing, mountain biking, and camping. I am hoping this summer to float the Gulkana River, backpack the Resurrection Trail, attend mountain bike camp in Vermont, and of course spend a lot of time outside with my two dogs, Sierra (11years) and Hope (6 months).



I have some big shoes to fill after Cindy retired, but I am going to strive for my best and I look forward to meeting all of you in the coming months!



I can be reached at (907) 267-2187 or [anna.petersen@alaska.gov](mailto:anna.petersen@alaska.gov).

## 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: Arianne Asay, Quincy Gellerman

Craig: Mary Hailey

Eagle River: Lyle Wirth, Richard Goodman

Fairbanks: Andrew George

Hoonah: Jared Edenshaw

JBER: Kristopher Pacheco

Juneau: Amy Pinney, Julie Thatcher

Nome: Cody Cordeiro

Palmer: Justin Patterson

Seward: Andrew Scrivo

Wasilla: Vincent Farrenkopf, Jorge Osorio

Willow: Jeffrey Hiett

### **Bowhunter Education:**

Eagle River: Richard Goodman

JBER: Kristopher Pacheco

Wasilla: Jorge Osorio

Skagway: Adam Smith

### **Muzzleloader Education:**

Anchorage: Maria Bakic, Timothy Booth, Paul Keller, John Toomer

Eagle River: Richard Goodman

JBER: Kristopher Pacheco

Palmer: Justin Patterson

### **Crossbow Education:**

Anchorage: Maria Bakic, Paul Keller, Joedy Wake

Fairbanks: Cordell Gray, Melissa Hendrickson, Devan Leon, Clinton Shahan

Please encourage students, family members, and friends to fill out the instructor application if you think they would be a great addition to the HIT Program. The application is available online ([www.huntereducation.alaska.gov](http://www.huntereducation.alaska.gov)) and printed copies have been included in all class paperwork boxes or cabinets.

## HIT Program Steering Group

Cordell Gray (Interior) [cords180@yahoo.com](mailto:cords180@yahoo.com)

Andy Finke (Rural) [bdaf49@gmail.com](mailto:bdaf49@gmail.com)

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## Instructor Notes

### Above & Beyond Recipients



We'd like to recognize the following instructors for going "above and beyond" this spring. Thanks to the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation for providing Cabela's gift certificates to help us recognize our Above & Beyond recipients. We'll continue to recognize 1-4 extraordinary volunteer instructors each quarter, so please keep an eye out for co-instructors who go "above and beyond" in the next few months and send HIT Program staff a nomination email.

#### **Timothy Booth (Anchorage)**

Timothy jumped right in after getting hunter ed certified in October 2021 and has already taught 9 classes in 2022 certifying 129 students. He also became a muzzleloader ed instructor in March.

#### **Ryan Hastings (Fort Wainwright)**

When asked about Ryan's involvement as a volunteer, Interior Regional Coordinator Tom Halverson said, "One word comes to mind...dependable! It's super helpful that he's a multi-discipline instructor." Ryan has taught 3 hunter ed classes and 2 bowhunter ed classes in 2022 certifying 59 students.



#### **Paul Keller (Anchorage)**

Paul has recently become an instructor for hunter ed, muzzleloader ed, and crossbow ed. He's taught 4 hunter ed, 1 muzzleloader ed, and 1 crossbow ed class in 2022 certifying 72 students.

#### **James White (Juneau)**

James is a teacher at Floyd Dryden Middle School in Juneau. This spring he helped 24 students obtain their hunter ed certification. James was instrumental and one of the first teachers who switched his students to the online course plus field day option during the pandemic to help ensure they could still get certified even though his class wasn't meeting in-person.



### HIT Staff

#### Contact Information

#### Anchorage:

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267-2534  
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267-2187

#### Fairbanks:

Tom Halverson 459-7211

#### Juneau:

Daniel Gutierrez  
465-4345



**BOW hunter ed class in  
Fairbanks**