



Hunter Information & Training Program News

Summer 2025

Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

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DID YOU KNOW?

In the 2024 calendar year, Alaska residents purchased 79,502 hunting licenses. There were also 19,601 non-resident hunting licenses purchased.

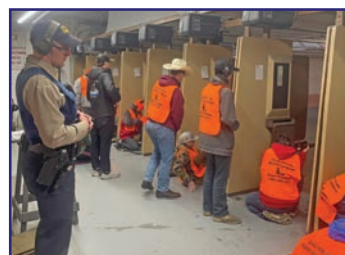
*Pictured:
B.O.W. participant Gaby's
first big game animal!*

In the spring newsletter, some of you may have noticed the large number of new instructors that we trained in the spring. This increase was due to the Alaska Legislature giving the Alaska Department of Education funds to be used for Hunter Education. School districts were able to pay for travel to instructor trainings, teacher salaries, and student online codes out of these funds. Many of the schools offered classes this spring and have plans to continue to offer classes this fall and into the future.

School District	Teachers Trained
Annette Island	5
Bering Strait	11
Chatham	3
Copper River	4
Delta Greely	2
Galena	2
Kodiak	3
Northwest Arctic	3
Sitka	2
Southeast Island	4
Yukon Koyukuk	6
Yupit	3



Annette
Island field
course



Kodiak
shooting
proficiency



Yupit instructors and
students studying



Tanana students and
instructors



Galena students safely
transferring firearms



Southeast Island teachers
during the Juneau
instructor training



Copper River field day



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Student Questions About Hunting Regulations

Students typically have questions regarding the regulations. A couple pointers/reminders:

1. Alaska Hunting Regulations:



Copies of the current Alaska hunting regulations are stocked at every class location. Please hand these out to students, they can take 2 if they want! If we're running low, let your regional coordinator know, and they'll provide more.



2. ADF&G Mobile App:

Encourage students to download the ADF&G mobile app. It includes maps, regulations, and your license/permits/tags info.

3. Alaska Wildlife Troopers:

If you don't know the answer to a student's question, don't guess. Direct them to contact the Wildlife Trooper and ADF&G office for the area where they plan to hunt.

****On the inside of the front cover of the regulations, there is a list of office locations and the phone numbers for the Wildlife Troopers and the ADF&G offices.**

Alaska Wildlife Troopers Contact Info

<https://dps.alaska.gov/awt/contact>

Alaska Department of Fish & Game Contact Info

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=contacts.main>

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Instructor Meetings

The annual instructor meetings are a great way to meet other instructors, share your hunting stories, provide feedback to HIT Program staff, and help plan the 2026 schedule. Dinner will be provided! It's also a chance for us to thank you for your outstanding efforts and volunteer hours in 2025. Please take the time to attend these meetings if you're available.

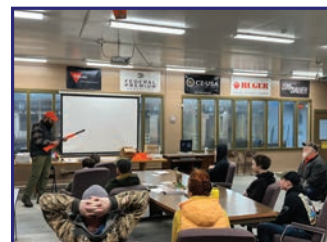
- **October 22nd**-Snowshoe Gun Club (Soldotna)
- **October 27th**-Fairbanks Indoor Range
- **November 6th**-Juneau Indoor Range
- **November 20th**-Grouse Ridge (Wasilla)
- **December 2nd**-Rural Areas Meeting (Zoom)
- **December 9th**-Anchor Lutheran School (Anchorage)

CLASS PHOTOS WANTED



Please take photos during your class field days, and email or text them to HIT Program staff.

The HIT Program needs new photos for our website, policy powerpoint, and publications. Students give ADF&G consent to use their photos when they sign the Student Consent form.



IHEA Instructor Resource Site
<https://www.ihea-usa.org/>

HIT Program Site
www.huntereducation.alaska.gov



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Steering Group Members Needed- Southcentral & Southeast

On November 1, 2025 there will be open seats on the HIT Program's Volunteer Steering Group. The openings will be from our Southcentral and Southeast regions and each seat is a two-year term. John Western (Anchorage), Regg Simon (Palmer), and Ted Sandhofer (Petersburg) have been tremendous assets to the Steering Group over the past two years.

The duties of the Steering Group are as follows:

- advise HIT Program Coordinator and staff on a wide range of issues pertaining to hunting and firearms safety.
- establish/maintain open communication between volunteer instructors and staff.
- periodically monitor and review program goals, objectives, and policies.
- provide ongoing recommendations on program curriculum (study manual, workbook, test, and lesson plans).
- represent instructors and program participants
- attend 1-2 teleconferences and one in-person meeting in Anchorage annually.

To apply, submit an email describing your background, how your membership on the Steering Group would benefit the HIT Program, and why you're interested in being on the Steering Group.

Emails are due by September 15, 2025.



WANTED: More Volunteer Instructors

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) and printed copies have been included in all class paperwork boxes or cabinets.

Help the HIT Program recruit the next cadre of volunteer instructors! Upcoming training dates:

Hunter Education

- Anchorage — October 10 & 11, Friday from 6:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm
- Fairbanks — October 10 & 11, Friday from 6:00pm-9:00pm, Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm
- Juneau — November 6 & 7, Friday from 6:00pm-9:00pm, Saturday from 9:00am-5:00pm

Bowhunter Education

- Anchorage — September 27, from 8:00am-5:00pm
- Fairbanks — October 4, from 8:00am-5:00pm

New Requirements for Goat Hunters and Nonresident Moose Hunters

- All hunters who wish to hunt mountain goats in Alaska must pass the ADF&G Mountain Goat Identification Quiz prior to hunting goats, and must carry proof of successful completion of the quiz in the field while hunting goats.
- All nonresident moose hunters, guided and nonguided, must complete the Nonresident Moose Hunter Orientation before hunting moose in Alaska, and must carry proof of successful completion of the orientation in the field while hunting moose.

HIT Steering Group Members

Melissa Hendrickson (Interior)
melissamch413@gmail.com

Regg Simon (Southcentral)
reggsimon@hotmail.com

Ted Sandhofer (Southeast)
cedarpond@gci.net

Andy Finke (Rural)
bdaf49@gmail.com

John Western (Southcentral)
jrwesternnavy@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 summer. 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 an email.

Cheryl Stickler (Haines)



Cheryl took initiative and provided valuable leadership and organizational abilities to make two hunter ed classes happen in Haines this spring. The classes certified 26 students!

Jackie Veats (Fairbanks)

Jackie got trained as a hunter ed instructor in October 2024. She's

already helped teach 8 hunter ed classes, taught classes and helped at the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) Blitz at the end of June, and she helped with the BOW Women's Rifle Club.

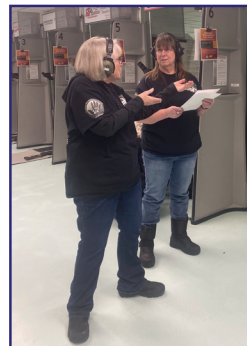
John Sloss (Sterling)

John has taught every public hunter ed class at the Snowshoe Gun Club in 2025 and he also helped with a school field day. He picks up the keys from the ADF&G office for all the classes and he helped design and construct the new hunter ed field course. He donated not only his time, but his own tools and materials for the field course, including the boat for the field course. He is constantly handing out instructor applications and trying to recruit more volunteer instructors.



Paul Houser (Palmer)

Paul has already taught 3 bow ed and 8 hunter ed classes this year. He's jumped in to teach classes at the last minute when we were short instructors and he helped design and construct the new bowhunter ed field course at the Alaska's Healing Hearts camp in Palmer.



HIT Program Staff Contact Information

Anchorage:

Gina Smith 267-2196
Luke Metherell 267-2241
Maria Bakic 267-2534
Arianne Asay 267-2187

Fairbanks:

Tom Halverson 459-7211
Dani Easterling
459-7242

Juneau:

Mike Kelly 465-4345
Dan Palicka 586-4101



**The largest instructor
training was held in
Anchorage in May with
25 new instructors
certified!**