

# Creating Hunting Opportunities for Young Adults

## A Planning Guide for the Massachusetts Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program

2009 Hunt Dates: 9/5, 9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3 and 10/10



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## **I. Introduction**

Times, lifestyles, and family activities have changed, as well as our land and wildlife resources. The youth of today do not have the same opportunities to hunt as in the past 20 to 30 years. Due to urbanization, loss of farms and other open space, less leisure time, computers and internet access, video games and organized school activities, young people are losing their connection to the outdoors. The days of walking down the road to the nearby farm or wood lot to hunt after school are all but gone except in the most rural communities. Historically, hunting and fishing were activities that many young people enjoyed after school and on weekends. The opportunities were nearby and readily available. So much enjoyment and intrinsic value associated with hunting and the outdoors may be lost to future generations of youth. The Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife Board (the Board) recognizes that the traditions and values of hunting and our outdoor heritage are an integral part of sustaining our conservation ethic and worth preserving, supporting and passing on to future generations. Therefore, the Board voted to establish the Massachusetts Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program.

The Massachusetts Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program provides young adults (ages 12-17), that have successfully completed the Massachusetts Hunter Education Program, an opportunity to develop their shooting skills, practice firearms safety in the field, and participate in a special pheasant hunt with a safe, experienced hunter in a friendly environment. The program is designed to be implemented by Sportsmen's Clubs to help pass on the traditions of hunting and the great outdoors to interested young adults in their local communities. The program is open to any Club wishing to participate. There are no fees for participation. This Planning Guide was developed to assist Clubs in the implementation of this program. It includes a number of suggestions for planning and implementing the program at your Club. Clubs can customize any or all of these suggestions to fit your Club's resources and manpower. This program emphasizes the quality of experience clubs provide to each young hunter rather than the number of participants.

*\* The Massachusetts Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program is supported in part by a grant from the 2003 Hunting Heritage Partnership, a National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc. (NSSF) program.*

## **II. Program Development**

The first step in developing this program was to obtain the facts relative to what young adult hunters and their parents/guardians deemed important, including but not limited to attitudes, interests, concerns, constraints, issues, and opportunities associated with specially designed young adult hunts. To ascertain this information, the Division conducted a Human Dimensions Research Study through Dr. Rodney Zwick at Lyndon State College in Vermont. The research study surveyed young adults who had recently completed the Massachusetts Hunter Education Course during the past three years and their parents/legal guardians.

## Survey Results

One of the major findings from the study was that both young adults and parents/legal guardians wanted more than just a day in the field hunting. They wanted a complete program. The survey provided the following information on what young adult hunters and their parents/legal guardians considered to be the most important elements of a safe, educational, and positive youth hunt program.

- Firearms safety in the field.
- Safe, supervised shooting instruction and practice prior to a hunt.
- Proper hunting ethics and behavior.
- Training on hunting regulations and safety.
- Cleaning and preparing game.
- A safe, supervised hunt using the assistance of a responsible, experienced adult hunter.
- Learning how to identify game in the field.
- The application of proper field techniques learned in the hunter education course.
- Instruction that is hands-on and fun.

Using these scientific survey results, the Division developed a program that included all of the important elements identified by young adult hunters and their parents/legal guardians as being necessary for a safe, positive and successful young adult hunt. The Division suggests that Clubs review this Planning Guide and help pass on both the traditions and values of safe hunting and our outdoor heritage to today's young adult hunter.

## III. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the program is to provide young hunters (ages 12 -17, inclusive) with a positive outdoor and hunting experience as well as the opportunity to practice what they have learned in hunter education in a safe, relaxed and friendly environment. Hunter safety is emphasized in all aspects of the program to help build the confidence of young adult hunters so they may feel comfortable hunting alone or with others in the field. The program culminates with the opportunity for the young hunters to spend a day in the field pheasant hunting under the watchful eye of a responsible, experienced hunter, in a safe, relaxed and friendly environment.

The Division will provide up to 2,000 adult pheasants on a first come-first served basis, distributing up to 2 birds for each registered young adult, but no more than 50 pheasants per club, tags for the harvested birds, and a hunting safety kit to those Clubs choosing to participate in the program. The hunting safety kit includes a copy of this planning guide, hunter orange vests and caps, shooting glasses, hearing protection, and educational and instructional materials for the suggested lesson plans for the pre-hunt workshop.

*The program itself is designed to be implemented by local Sportsmen's Clubs.* The scope of the program includes the following three major components.

**1. Learning to Shoot a Shotgun.** “Wing shooting” is entirely different from shooting a rifle, muzzleloader, or slugs through a shotgun. It is a skill that is learned through instruction and developed with practice on clay targets. Young adult hunters should first spend time learning how to safely and properly shoot a shotgun at the skeet trap and/or sporting clay range with experienced instructors. Instruction should include shooting range protocols and safety, and the cleaning, care, and maintenance of firearms.

**2. Pre-Hunt Workshop.** This component is designed to provide the young hunters with opportunity to practice what they learned in the Massachusetts Hunter Education Program in a field setting where the pheasant hunt will occur. Consider the pre-hunt workshop as a “dress rehearsal” for the actual pheasant hunt. This should be a hands-on, “in the field” workshop that covers the suggested lesson plans in Section VII of this planning guide. The lesson plans include practice sessions on how to safely carry a firearm in the field alone and with other hunters, determining safe zones of fire, crossing obstacles safely with a firearm, hunting regulations and ethics, and gear and clothing. In addition, Clubs may want to include hunting with a dog in the pre-hunt workshop by including the dogs in the field exercises.

**3. Young Adult Pheasant Hunt.** This part of the program brings all the components together and provides the young adult hunter with the opportunity for a day in the field pheasant hunting under the watchful eye of a responsible, experienced hunter, in a safe, relaxed and friendly environment.

## **IV. Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Why a pheasant hunt?**

A pheasant hunt can be held in a controlled environment to provide a safe setting for young adult hunters by stocking pheasants in designated Division Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), or on Club properties during specified days and times just for young adults. This approach provides an opportunity for a day in the field with a responsible, experienced adult hunter, the enjoyment of watching a dog work, the thrill of seeing a pheasant flush from cover and taking the shot, and cleaning and cooking the day's harvest.

### **2. Where can Clubs conduct a hunt?**

Clubs may conduct the hunt on club property. If a Club does not have sufficient open space to hold a safe, controlled hunt, the Club may use one of the designated Division WMAs for the

hunt. You can contact your local District Wildlife Office or the Division's Field Headquarters in Westborough, MA. for a list of designated WMAs.

### **3. How may a Club participate in the program?**

The program is free and open to all clubs who wish to participate. Clubs may pool resources such as shooting ranges, Club facilities, equipment and manpower with other Clubs to conduct a young adult pheasant hunt program.

- If a Club accepts pheasants supplied by the Division, its Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program must be open to non-members.
- In addition, Clubs must also allow non-members to hunt on its property during the regular pheasant hunting season for that year. In such instances, the Club may of course require that the non-members comply with the Club's rules, regulations and other requirements related to the Club's operation during the hunt.

*To participate in the program, a Club must complete the 1) Request for Pheasants and Program Materials form and, 2) the Liability Waiver form, and mail both to the Division's Field Headquarters in Westborough by June 15th.* Both forms are located in the Appendix of this planning guide, on our web site at [www.mass.gov/masswildlife](http://www.mass.gov/masswildlife). Forms are also available at the Division's Hunter Education Office, District Wildlife Offices, and Field Headquarters.

### **4. What if our club would like to participate in the program, but does not want to open its property to non-members during the regular pheasant hunting season?**

Your club may hold the young adult pheasant hunt on one of the Division's designated WMAs. By hosting the hunt on a designated WMA, your Club remains eligible to receive pheasants from the Division because this alleviates the issue of receiving and releasing state birds on Club property not open to the public during the regular pheasant hunting season. Or, your Club may purchase its own pheasants from a private vendor (*Be sure to contact the Division's permit office in Boston, (617) 626-1575, for permitting requirements relative to purchasing and liberating pheasants*). If your Club purchases its own birds and releases them on Club property, your Club would not have to be open to non-members during the regular hunting season.

### **5. If our club would like to hold more than one young adult pheasant hunt during the special season, may we receive additional pheasants from the Division?**

In fairness to other Clubs that may wish to participate in the program, the Division will supply pheasants for one hunt, per Club, per year. Of course, your club is free to purchase additional pheasants privately to host another young adult pheasant hunt if it wishes to do so during the special young adult pheasant hunting season (*Be sure to contact the Division's permit office in*

*Boston, (617) 626-1575, for permitting requirements relative to purchasing and liberating pheasants).*

## **6. When can clubs conduct a young adult pheasant hunt?**

If your club would like to receive pheasants from the Division, then your hunt must be conducted on one of the following six Saturday's prior to the start the regular pheasant hunting season in **2008: Sept. 6th, Sept. 13th, Sept. 20th, Sept. 27th, Oct. 4th or OCT. 11th.**

## **7. Is there a bag limit for the young adult pheasant hunt?**

Yes. There is a bag limit of two pheasants per young adult hunter, per hunt.

## **8. Is there any age or other eligibility requirement to participate in a young adult pheasant hunt?**

Yes. The young adult must be at least 12, but no older than 17 years of age, and have successfully completed the Massachusetts Hunter Education Program. The Division recommends that your Club require the parents/legal guardians of the young adult hunters to complete and sign forms for (1) registration, (2) consent and liability waiver, (3) release and indemnification agreement and (4) emergency medical authorization. Samples of these forms may be found in the Appendix to this program guide. However, the Division strongly urges each participating Club to consult private legal counsel before using any of these sample forms.

Young adults between the ages of 15 and 17 must have a current, valid Massachusetts hunting license issued by the Division, and a current, valid Firearms Identification Card (FID) issued by the chief of the local police department where the young adult hunter resides. The local police chief may require proof of the successful completion of a firearms safety or hunter education course before issuing an FID card. The local police chief will also be able to inform the young adult hunter, parents/legal guardians or the Club of any other specific restrictions or requirements that apply to the use of firearms in the municipality.

All parents/legal guardians, or other adults actively participating in the pheasant hunt, must have in their possession a current, valid Massachusetts hunting license issued by the Division. Individuals simply observing the hunt (i.e., an interested parent wishing to see their child hunting) do not require a hunting license. Adults cannot carry or discharge a firearm during the special youth hunt. Adults are there only to assist the young adult hunters.

## **9. Are background checks required for our adult volunteers participating in the program?**

In this day and age, we are all especially concerned about the safety and well-being of our young people. Every precaution that can be taken should be taken to protect them. There should never be a situation in which a young adult is left alone, or left with a single adult volunteer. Common sense suggests that there should always be at least two adult volunteers present in all

situations, including classroom instruction, field exercises, and the actual hunt. While this may require additional effort and resources on the Club's part, it is an investment that Clubs must make if our common hunting traditions and great outdoor heritage are safely maintained for future generations. The Division strongly urges that each Club consult with private legal counsel on the need for background checks of adult volunteer participants, and any other legal requirements or restrictions that may apply to the club's involvement in the program.

### **10. Are there other considerations when planning a young adult pheasant hunt?**

Yes. The overall hunting experience should be safe, fun and educational for the young adult hunters and their parents/legal guardians. Consider using pointing dogs instead of the flushing breeds for the hunt. Pointers, rather than flushing dogs give the young adult hunter a little more time to react and prepare for a safe shot. The hunt should provide a safe and positive outdoor experience for young adults. Clubs should never have more participants than responsible, experienced adult hunters, dogs and dog handlers.

### **11. What if we have further questions about the program?**

Questions about the program may be directed to the program's coordinator or the hunter education program coordinator.

Program Coordinator: Dr. Mark S. Tisa  
 MA. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife  
 Field Headquarters  
 Westborough, MA. 01581  
 (508) 389-6300

Hunter Education Program Coordinator: Susan Langlois  
 P.O. Box 408  
 Westminster, MA. 01473  
 (978) 632-7648

## **V. Program Guidelines for Clubs**

### **1. Shooting Instruction and Practice.**

**A. Objective:** To provide all young adults participating in the program with the fundamentals of shotgunning through hands-on instruction and practice at the skeet, trap, and/or sporting clays range. As a goal, try to have each participant shoot a minimum of six rounds (1 round equals 25

clay targets) of skeet, trap and/or sporting clays at the range prior to participating in the pheasant hunt.

**B. Responsibility:** It is the responsibility of the Club to provide dedicated range time as well as shooting instruction and practice for program participants.

We all recognize that range time with a shotgun is one of the most important elements for developing shotgunning skills and familiarizing all participants with the safe handling and successful use of shotguns in the field. “Wing shooting” is entirely different than shooting a rifle, muzzleloader, or slugs through a shotgun. It is a skill that is learned through instruction and developed with practice on clay targets. As part of the program, the young adults will spend time learning how to safely and properly shoot a shotgun at the skeet, trap and/or sporting clays range with experienced instructors. Make them feel welcome, comfortable and most of all safe. Remember, most of these young adults probably have never had the opportunity to do any formal clay target shooting before. Assume they do not know anything about range safety and protocol and start from the beginning. Be sure to cover the fundamentals of firearms safety as well as the basics of shotgunning including topics like eye dominance, gun fit, target focus, pointing versus aiming, and guns and ammunition. Have extra Club members on hand to provide guidance and assistance. The family should be welcomed to attend and watch their youngster’s progress as they learn the proper and safe technique of shooting a shotgun.

**C. Schedule:** A good time to offer the shooting component of the program would be during the summer months and right up until the pheasant hunt in early fall. Try to offer both weekday and weekend range time for developing these skills. Begin advertising the program through your club news letter and membership in the winter months and begin signing up participants in early spring.

**D. Registration:** Establish a registration deadline at least a week or more in advance so you know how many people to plan for at the range. This will help ensure that you have all the necessary resources, supplies and volunteers needed to provide a safe, fun learning environment at the shooting range. The Appendix includes several sample forms that your Club can customize for its own use in hosting a youth hunt program including registration, parental consent, release and indemnification agreement, emergency medical, and volunteer participation forms. The Division strongly urges each participating Club to consult private legal counsel before using any of these sample forms.

**E. Equipment:** There are certain basic mandatory safety items that you will need for everyone at the shooting range including eye and ear protection. These safety items are not optional so the Division has included them as part of the hunting safety kit. Some participants may not own a shotgun so consider having shotguns available at the range for use. Also consider providing the ammunition for the participants. Even those participants that have their own shotguns may not know or have the proper type of ammunition for these various clay target games. It can also get hot on the range in the summertime, so consider having ice-cold refreshments there for everyone.

## 2. The Pre-Hunt Workshop.

**A. Objective:** To provide the young hunters with opportunity to practice what they learned in the Massachusetts Hunter Education Program in a field setting where the actual pheasant hunt will occur. Consider the pre-hunt workshop as a “dress rehearsal” for the actual pheasant hunt. This should be a hands-on, in the field workshop that covers the suggested lesson plans in Section VII of this planning guide. The lesson plans include practice sessions on how to safely carry a firearm in the field alone and with other hunters, determining safe zones of fire, crossing obstacles safely with a firearm, hunting regulations and ethics, and gear and clothing. In addition, Clubs may want to include hunting with a dog in the pre-hunt workshop by including the dogs in the field exercises.

**B. Responsibility:** It is the responsibility of the Club to organize and conduct a pre-hunt workshop. This is a hands-on, in the field workshop that prepares the young adult hunters for the actual pheasant hunt through field exercises that simulate real hunting conditions. Remember, young adults learn best by doing. Make the workshop hands-on and fun. Keep the topics of discussion short, simple and to the point. If there is too much talk, they will lose interest.

Section VII of this guide provides suggested lesson plans for the pre-hunt workshop devised as a series of five major topics: 1) Proper Field Carries and Crossing Obstacles; 2) Safely Handling, Loading and Unloading Firearms; 3) Zones of Fire and Shoot/Don't Shoot Scenarios; 4) Gear and Clothing; and 5) Hunter Ethics and Regulations. Consider establishing teaching teams and assigning a specific topic to each team for the pre-hunt workshop. Each teaching team will teach its specific learning objectives for their assigned topic to the participants (*See learning objectives in suggested lesson plans in Section VII*). Topics 1, 2, and 3 should take place at the actual field location of the proposed pheasant hunt. Topics 4 and 5 can be conducted in the field or back at the Club.

The young adults can be divided into four groups (*Hunter Ethics and Regulations* should be conducted with the entire group). When everyone in each of the groups completes the exercises, each group can move to the next learning area in the field. After all students have rotated through the four areas, the Hunter Ethics and Regulations lesson can then be conducted in one large group.

It is very important that the teaching teams each understand their assigned objectives for their respective learning area. The suggested lesson plans in Section VII provide guidance for teaching each of the five major topics.

**C. Registration:** Establish a registration deadline a minimum of two weeks or more in advance of your workshop so you know how many people to plan for in your workshop. This will help ensure that you that you have all the necessary resources and volunteers needed to appropriately conduct the workshop. Encourage the family to participate in the workshop as well. Have a cookout and make it a fun family day. The Appendix includes several sample forms your club can customize for its own use in hosting a youth hunt program including registration, parental

consent, release and indemnification agreement, emergency medical, and volunteer participation forms. The Division strongly urges each participating Club to consult private legal counsel before using any of these sample forms.

**D. Schedule:** As previously stated, the purpose of the pre-hunt workshop is a “dress rehearsal” for the actual pheasant hunt. So in terms of scheduling the workshop, ideally it should be held the week before the actual pheasant hunt, but no more than two weeks before. Your Club should plan on at least a half day’s time for the workshop preferably a Saturday or Sunday.

Have a centrally located check-in area the day of the workshop where everyone can assemble and receive instructions and information. It should be well marked and easy to find. Ensure that everyone has registered for the workshop and you have all necessary signed consent and participation forms.

Being well organized and prepared is important to keep things running smoothly and to cover all the activities and lesson plans within a reasonable period of time. You should have a detailed schedule for the entire workshop. The schedule should list all of the activities, times, locations and the person in charge of each activity. Below is an example of a schedule you could use or develop one of your own.

- 9:00 Check in at club house  
Provide coffee, milk, hot cocoa and donuts, etc.
- 9:15 Conduct a general orientation for the entire group. Explain the agenda for the day.
- 9:30 Field practice – Break the participants into 4 groups. Assign each group to a separate area
  1. Proper field carries and crossing obstacles.
  2. Handling and Loading and Unloading Firearms Safely.
  3. Zones of Fire and Shoot/Don’t Shoot scenarios.
  4. Gear and Clothing.
- 10:00 Rotate the groups – Group 1 should go to Area 2, Group 2 to Area 3, etc.
- 10:30 Rotate the groups – Group 1 should go to Area 3, Group 2 to Area 4, etc.
- 11:00 Rotate the groups – Group 1 should go to Area 4, Group 2 to Area 1, etc
- 11:30 Rotate the groups – Group 1 should go to Area 4, Group 2 to Area 1, etc
- 12:00 Lunch break
- 12:30 Hunter Ethics and Regulations Lesson and distribute packets of information
- 1:15 Instructor wrap up and clean up!

### 3. The Pheasant Hunt.

**A. Objective:** To provide young adult hunters with a positive outdoor and hunting experience in a safe, friendly environment.

**B. Responsibility:** Hunter safety should be emphasized at all times. In addition, the hunt should be limited only to those young adult hunters who have participated in both the shooting instruction/practice and pre-hunt workshop segments of the program. It is the responsibility of

the Club to handle all the logistics of organizing and conducting the youth pheasant hunt. This is an important task with many details including finding volunteers with hunting dogs, picking up the birds and releasing them for the hunt, matching young adult hunters with experienced hunters and their dogs, conducting a post-hunt wild game cleaning and cooking demonstration, and completing the young adult post-hunt survey program evaluation form.

It is important for everyone to have a positive experience right from the start. Remember it is not about filling bag limits but rather the whole hunting experience with family and friends that is most important. Be prepared to accommodate participants in the event of inclement weather or the chance someone forgot something like their orange hat, vest or shooting glasses.

It is helpful to have volunteers and dog handlers organized and on the same page when the hunters and their families arrive. Confirm that the dog handlers are familiar with their assigned hunting areas, the stocking plan, bag limit and tentative schedule. Consider the use of two-way radios and maps to coordinate and familiarize all participants with the hunting areas and facilities. Determine what if any transportation is necessary to place participants into hunting areas.

**C. Registration:** *Registration for the hunt should be limited to only the young adults who completed both the shooting instruction/practice and pre-hunt segments of the program.* The reason is safety. This is to insure that all participants in the hunt know how to properly shoot and safely handle a firearm. Those that completed the shooting and pre-hunt segments of the program will be better prepared and know what to expect at the hunt. They have received formal shooting instruction and practice on the range as well as practice carrying firearms safely in the field and hunting with others including zones of fire and hunting over dogs.

The Appendix includes several sample forms your Club can customize for its own use in hosting a youth hunt program including registration, release and indemnification agreement, parental consent, emergency medical, and volunteer participation forms. The Division strongly urges each participating Club to consult private legal counsel before using any of these sample forms.

**D. Schedule:** The actual pheasant hunt must be conducted on one of the following six (6) Saturday's prior to the start the regular pheasant hunting season in **2008: Sept. 6th, Sept. 13th, Sept. 20th, Sept. 27th, Oct. 4th or OCT. 11th.**

On the day of the hunt, make sure all the participants are registered. Also, check that each young adult hunter has their FID card (if necessary), proper clothing, eye and ear protection, shotgun, and ammunition. Make sure all adults assisting in the hunt have their hunting license. Have your Club's program coordinator welcome the group and review safety matters, schedule of activities for the hunt, facilities, etc., and make pairing assignments with hunters to dog handlers.

As the young adult hunters return from the field, have a camera ready to take pictures and remember to tag all harvested birds. Also, do not forget to have each young adult hunter complete the post-hunt survey form.

The actual hunting experience may be rather brief so consider allowing dog handlers to train their dogs with the remaining birds after the hunt is over. It's a great way of showing your appreciation for their participation and support. Solicit as much feedback as you can to identify ways in which you might improve the experience for all participants involved. Report your results to your Club members at your next meeting and use the opportunity to generate interest for next season.

A suggested schedule for the day of the hunt might be as follows:

- 6:00 Confirm volunteers and assignments
- 6:30 Stocking of pheasants
- 7:00 Young Hunters Check-in and Welcome  
Coffee, juice and donuts
- 7:15 Coordinator briefing and pairing of hunters and dog handlers
- 7:45 Participants assigned to hunting areas
- 8:00-11:00 Hunt Begins  
Birds tagged at check-in station  
Field dress pheasants
- 11:00 – 1:00 Luncheon and wild game cooking demonstration  
Distribute post hunt survey and evaluation form to participants

**E. Equipment:** You may need vehicles for stocking, transporting hunters and dogs to and from hunting areas, etc. A cleaning station and supplies for field dressing and packaging birds will be necessary. Have portable camp stoves for the cooking demonstration if your Club does not have kitchen facilities. Have extra hunting ammunition available at the club as well as hunter orange caps, vests and eye protection. The Division will supply the Clubs with the special tags for all harvested birds since it will be outside the regular pheasant hunting season.

#### **F. General Considerations:**

- How will your Club deal with inclement weather?
- Will restroom facilities be available?
- Have emergency medical plans in place.
- Consider providing coffee, juice, hot chocolate, donuts, bagels the morning before the hunt.
- Consider providing lunch such as a cookout after the hunt. Think about combining a wild game cooking demonstration at the same time.
- Provide all participants with name tags.
- Consider having two-way radios to communicate with your hunting groups.
- Make sure everyone feels welcome!

**G. Wrapping Up:** It is also a good idea for your Club to have a post-hunt meeting to review the entire program including the shooting and pre-hunt workshop as well as the pheasant hunt. And last but not least, be sure to thank all your committee members and volunteers for all their valuable time and contributions to the program.

## **VI. Suggested Timeline and Committees for Planning and Organizing your Club's Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program**

### **By April 30**

- Establish the Program Coordinator for the Club.
- Set program dates and times.

### **By May 31**

- Establish three key committees (shooting, pre-hunt workshop, and hunt day) and begin committee work.
- Begin to line up volunteer commitments.
- Make participant registration forms available.
- Walk the site where the hunt will take place to determine the number of hunters that can be accommodated safely during the hunt.
- Set participant goal based on number of young adult hunters that can be accommodated safely for the hunt.

### **By June 30**

- By **June 15<sup>th</sup>** submit liability waiver and request for pheasants and program material forms to the Division.
- A majority of program participants should be registered at this point.
- A shooting instruction and practice schedule should be in place and available for registered participants.
- Pre-hunt workshop schedule should be set and a lead person for each learning station should be selected.

### **By August 1**

- All those planning to participate should be registered.
- All registered participants should be receiving shooting instruction and practice at the skeet, trap and/or sporting clays range.
- Volunteers for the pre-hunt workshop and hunt day should be in place.
- You should have contingency plans in place for poor weather on the day of pre-hunt workshop and hunting day.

### **Two weeks before the Pre-hunt Workshop/ Three weeks before the Pheasant Hunt**

- Participants should be provided a check list of what to bring for pre-hunt workshop and pheasant hunt.
- Make sure all required consent, release, and medical forms have been signed.
- Notify your Local Police Department as well as the Environmental Police of the date of your Club's Young Adult Pheasant Hunt.
- Make sure all details of acquiring pheasants are arranged in advance with your local District Wildlife Office.

## **VII. Pre-Hunt Workshop - Suggested Lesson Plans**

The following section provides the suggested lesson plans for the pre-hunt workshop. These lesson plans are used by the Massachusetts Hunter Education Program and are based on established standards from the International Hunter Education Program. The pre-hunt workshop differs from the hunter education program in that it is designed to take place in the field at the actual location of the proposed pheasant hunt, not indoors at the club. It is a hands-on, workshop that prepares the young adult hunters for the pheasant hunt through exercises that simulate real hunting conditions in the field. These lessons are designed to provide the most effective means for students to gain the knowledge and skills needed in hunting. The lessons also provide excellent guidance for the adults who are instructing beginning hunters. The lesson plan format provides adults serving as instructors, all information, materials and exercises needed to perform the lesson.

This is a hands-on, in the field workshop that prepares the young adult hunters for the actual pheasant hunt through field exercises that simulate real hunting conditions.

*Note that each lesson plan follows the same format:*

**Learning Objectives:** The objectives clearly state what specific skills or knowledge are to be learned by the hunter/student.

**Materials:** This area lists all materials and equipment that are needed to complete the lesson or exercise.

**Procedure:** This explains how to actually conduct the lesson in specific detail. Following the procedures will ensure that the new hunter will be learning or demonstrating the skills and knowledge stated in the objective.

**1. Proper Field Carries and Crossing Obstacles:** *(These exercises should take place in the field at the site of the proposed hunt.)*

### **A. Learning Objectives**

- (a) Student must demonstrate the methods for safely carrying a firearm in the field.
- (b) Student must be able to select the appropriate carry for each position while walking single file or abreast with one and two other people.
- (c) Student must demonstrate the procedure for crossing a fence or negotiating an obstacle with a firearm while alone or with another.

### **B. Materials**

- (a) Actual firearms planned for use in the pheasant hunt.
- (b) Dummy Rounds
- (c) Hunting hat.

### **C. Procedure for Proper Field Carries**

(a) Demonstrate the various safe, proper field carries and the proper time to use them. Ask three student volunteers to come forward. With the students acting as fellow hunters, demonstrate the acceptable carry or carries for each of the three people when walking single file and when walking three abreast.

(b) Put the three students into single file. Ask each student to demonstrate a proper, safe carry using a firearm for each of the three positions. Move each student through each of the three positions, leading, middle, and trailing. Give corrective feedback as required and critique the performance when the students have finished.

(c) Put the three students into a line three abreast. Ask each student to demonstrate a proper, safe carry using the gun for each of the three positions. Move each student through each of the three positions, left, center, right. Give corrective feedback as required and critique the performance when the students have finished.

(d) Repeat steps (a) and (b) until all students have performed the tasks successfully.

(e) Repeat this exercise demonstrating acceptable carries with two students walking abreast in the field.

### **D. Procedure for crossing obstacles.**

A. Crossing fences and negotiating obstacles is something every hunter will have to do at one time or another. An obstacle can either be a minor annoyance or a very dangerous situation. It all depends on how they are approached.

B. Explain the procedure for negotiating obstacles and slippery, steep, or rocky terrain.

C. Demonstrate the following proper method for crossing a fence while alone.

(a) Firearm unloaded with action open.

(b) Carefully lay the firearm on the ground, protect the muzzle and point it away from a fence. One means of protecting the muzzle away from the fence is to remove your cap and place the muzzle inside the cap before laying the firearm on the ground.

(c) Cross the fence with the butt of the firearm facing towards you and far enough away so that should you fall, you would not fall on the firearm.

(d) Ask students to come forward, one at a time, and hand them a firearm and a hat. Ask the student to cross the fence. If no fence is available, simulate the fence by tying three strands of parachute cord between two sturdy chairs. Give corrective feedback as required and critique the performance when the student has finished.

(e) Repeat step (d) until all students have performed the task successfully.

D. Demonstrate the following proper method for crossing a fence with two or more hunters.

(a) All actions open and unloaded.

- (b) Hunter A passes unloaded firearm to Hunter B.
- (c) Hunter A crosses the fence.
- (d) Hunter B passes both unloaded firearms to hunter A.
- (e) Hunter B crosses fence.
- (f) Ask a pair of students to come forward and demonstrate crossing the fence with each student acting the role of both hunter A and B. Give corrective feedback as required and critique the performance when the students have finished.
- (g) Repeat step (f) until all students have performed the task successfully.
- (h) If there is a stream, steep slope or other type obstacle in the hunt area, be sure to take the students through those obstacles.

***2. Safely Handling, Loading and Unloading Firearms: (These exercises should take place in the field at the site of the proposed hunt.)***

**A. Learning Objectives.**

- (a) Student must demonstrate the procedure for safely accepting a firearm and operate its action correctly.
- (b) Student must check the barrel for obstructions.
- (c) Student must correctly identify the gauge of a designated firearm, select from an assortment of “dummy” shotgun shells the proper shells for which the firearm is chambered, and load and unload the firearm with these “dummy” shotgun shells while observing the rules of gun handling safety.

**B. Materials.**

- (a) Actual firearms planned for use in the pheasant hunt. Show a number of different actions if possible.
- (b) “Dummy” shotgun shells in the various gauges (12, 16, 20, 28 and 410) for the deactivated shotguns.
- (c) Empty shotgun shell boxes from the five common gauges (12, 16, 20, 28 and 410).
- (d) Flashlight.

**C. Procedure for safely handling and operating firearms.**

- (a) The cardinal rule of firearm safety is that every gun must be treated as if it were loaded.
- (b) Ask a student to identify the action type of the firearm present. Pick up the action type. Check it, and say “empty” aloud, and then demonstrate the following.
  1. Operation of the action.
  2. Location of the safety and how to engage it.
  3. How to check the chamber and magazine (if magazine fed) for cartridges.
  4. The procedure for loading and unloading the firearm.

(c) Ask a student to come forward to assist in demonstrating the proper method for safely, and courteously accepting a firearm. The receiver must do the following.

1. Check that the action is opened before touching the firearm.
2. Visually check the chamber and magazine before touching the firearm.
3. Grasp the firearm with both hands, keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
4. Respond by saying “thank you” when in positive control of the firearm, alerting the passer that it is now safe to release the gun.

(d) With the student in control of the gun, demonstrate the three rules of gun handling safety, moving the student’s position if necessary. Repeat each of the three rules as you position the student.

1. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
2. Keep the action open and unloaded.
3. Keep your finger outside and alongside the trigger guard.

(e) Ask the student to recite the three rules of gun handling safety while demonstrating them.

(f) Ask the student to engage the safety, operate the action (safety may have to be disengaged), check it, and return the firearm.

(g) Repeat steps (b) through (f) with each student choosing a different action type.

#### **D. Procedure for safely loading and unloading firearms.**

(a) Explain how to tell what cartridge a firearm is chambered for as follows.

1. Hold up a firearm and point to the inscription on the barrel that indicates the chambering.
2. Hold up various empty shotgun cartridge boxes and explain the numbers printed on the box flaps.
3. Hold up “dummy” cartridges with different head stamps and explain how the head stamp and the inscription on the barrel must be checked and matched.
4. Using a flashlight, demonstrate the proper method for checking a barrel for obstructions.
5. Demonstrate the proper loading procedure for the action type.
6. Ask a student to come forward, determine the correct chambering for a firearm you indicate, go to the ammunition table and select the proper “dummy” ammunition to load the firearm. Ask the student to demonstrate checking the barrel for obstructions and then to load and unload the firearm safely. Give corrective feedback and critique when the student is finished.
7. Repeat step 6 until all students have performed the task successfully.

**3. Zones of Fire and Shoot/Don't Shoot Scenarios:** *(These exercises should take place in the field at the site of the proposed hunt.)*

**A. Learning Objectives.**

- (a) Students must demonstrate how to determine appropriate zones of fire for each person in a two-person hunting party.
- (b) Students must demonstrate how to safely judge when and when not to shoot at a game animal and where to place their shot when they decide to shoot.

**B. Materials.**

- (a) Actual firearms planned for use in the pheasant hunt.
- (b) A clay target launcher and targets or a ball.
- (c) Hunter orange cap/hat and vest.

**C. Procedure for zones of fire.**

(a) In most hunting situations there is a limit to the number of people who can safely hunt together. For the young adult hunters in this program, no more than two people should be hunting together in order to constantly observe and maintain a safe and proper zone of fire to keep from shooting one another. Cover the following.

1. With two young adult hunters abreast, emphasize that the hunters are spaced roughly 20 to 40 feet apart and never so far apart that they cannot see each other.
2. Explain that each of the two hunters has a zone of fire approximately 45 degrees in front or from 10:30 to 1:30 on an analog clock face.
3. Demonstrate a method for finding your zone of fire. Ask the young adult hunters to look straight ahead and extend their arms out to each side parallel to their chest, and make a fist with the thumb held straight up. Tell them to slowly move their arms toward the front until the thumbs are clearly in focus without moving their eyes. This exercise helps young hunters understand why zones of fire are set at 45 degrees.
4. Have two young adults each with an unload firearm line up two abreast approximately 20 feet apart. You may space them closer for instructional purposes. Ask each to demonstrate his/her zone of fire. From behind them, toss the ball into different zones. Tell the young adult hunters that if it is in their zone, point at it with their firearm. Emphasize the importance of this drill by explaining that a great many hunting accidents are the result of hunters not respecting their zones of fire, especially when shooting at a crossing bird. .
5. Repeat step 4 until all young adult hunters have performed the task successfully.

#### **D. Procedure for shoot /don't shoot scenarios.**

This exercise should be led by a dog handler and their dog to familiarize the young hunter with the safety considerations of hunting over a dog.

(a) Explain that they will walk in small hunting parties of no more than 2 young adult hunters and their parents/legal guardians. Discuss shoot/don't shoot scenarios. Let them know that you will be observing them carry a firearm properly and maintain safe shooting zones.

(b) Walk through a hunt scenario with the young adult hunter and their parent/legal guardian and provide guidance on several topics. For shoot/don't shoot scenarios the students need to be coached on several important points. Before they take a shot they should answer yes to questions (1) through (4).

(1) Have they positively identified their target?

(2) Is the shot safe in terms of maintaining their zone of fire, and knowing where their hunting partners and hunting dog is?

(3) Is the shot legal considering the distance to surrounding roads and the distance to inhabited buildings?

(4) Is the shot safely and responsibly taken within the effective shot range, and in a manner which will result in a clean kill; e.g. head and neck shots for upland birds.?

(5) Ask the students to identify shots that should not be taken; i.e. low flying birds, shots outside their zone.

(6) Ask the students to determine the appropriate time to load the firearm and the appropriate time to unload the firearm.

*\* Repeat steps 1-4 until all students have performed the tasks successfully.*

### **4. Gear and Clothing**

#### **A. Learning Objective.**

(a) Students must list primary items needed for a safe pheasant hunt.

1. Protective eyewear and hearing protection.
2. Jeans or canvas hunting pants for protection while walking in the field
3. Orange cap or hat
4. Orange shell vest with a game bag
5. Waterproof boots
6. A number of thin layers of clothing rather than a heavy coat
7. Firearm should be a 20 or 12 gauge shotgun

8. Correct ammunition for the firearm, including #5 or #6 shot for hunting pheasant
9. Knife
10. Water bottle

**B. Materials:**

Consider having a number of the above items available at the learning area.

**C. Procedure:**

- (a) Hold each one up as it is identified and explain the importance of each item.
  1. Students should be able to list the gear needed for a safe pheasant hunt.
  2. Students should be able to explain the importance of each item.
  3. Certain items will lend themselves to further discussion, such as commonly used firearms, preferred choke and correct ammunition.
  4. For any other elements not identified, list or hold up the individual item and explain the purpose of each.
  5. Provide a written checklist to each student at the end of the session.

## **5. Hunter Ethics and Regulations**

**A. Learning Objectives.**

(a) Participants will evaluate the ethics of possible actions they might take in various hunting situations.

(b) Student will be able to find the correct information in the Massachusetts Hunting and Fishing Abstracts relating to pheasant hunting rules and regulations including license requirements, restrictions, blaze orange and other requirements.

**B. Materials:**

- (a) Copies of Dilemma scenarios. 1 dilemma / small group of students.
- (b) Copies of each Student Worksheet on Hunting Regulations 1/participant. Use 1 sheet but print both sides. Pencils or pens for each participant

**C. Procedure for Hunter Ethics:**

A. Conduct this exercise with all participants present. This experience can be conducted while relaxing in the field or at the club house. Explain that as hunters, the young adults will be faced with a number of different situations while hunting which may require them think carefully about the ethics of their next course of action. Remind them that sometimes the “right” thing to do may not be what others want to do. Break young hunters into small groups (2-4 people).

Explain that each small group will receive a hunting dilemma and that each group has to decide the most ethical course of action to take. There are some possible actions listed, but they can also come up with others that are not listed. Distribute one dilemma to each group and give them all time to work on that dilemma. When the groups are done, (usually 5 minutes) ask each group to share the dilemma and report what action they thought they would take. Be sure to suggest that other groups provide ideas as well.

If you don't have any more than 4-8 participants in the workshop, ask each participant to choose a dilemma, give them 2-3 minutes to look at the dilemma. Ask each young adult to read their dilemma and explain what action they would take in that situation.

(Dilemmas from the Orion Institute Teaching Guide to Fair Chase)

### **Dilemma #1**

You and your friend have obtained permission to hunt pheasants on a large farm. Your friend is driving his pickup truck. Even though the farmer told you to drive only on established roads, your friend insists it is okay to drive across a field to get closer to a hunting area. He doesn't listen to your objections and starts to turn off the road into the field. You should:

- Just go along with him; after all, he's the one driving and he's the one who will get into trouble.
- Ask him to stop and then get out, telling him you won't be part of going against the farmer's instructions.
- Ask him to stop and then get out and walk out ahead to make sure the ground isn't too soft to drive on.
- Ask him to stop and point out the advantages of parking right where you are and walking across the field—there might even be a pheasant out there.
- Other

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Dilemma #2**

After getting permission from the landowner for you and your brother to hunt on private land on opening day, your best friend calls you and says he/she would like to go hunting with you. You should:

- Tell your friend, "Sure, come along—the more hunters the better."
- Explain to your friend that you have obtained permission only for you and your brother— isn't there someone else he can hunt with that day?
- Suggest that your friend obtain permission from the same landowner, if possible, so that all of you would have permission to hunt on that land.
- See if your brother could hunt somewhere else—then it would be okay for your friend to take his place on the private land.
- Other

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dilemma #3**

Your good friend loves the out-of-doors but has never hunted or even been around hunting situations. Since he/she recently has expressed an interest in your hunting, you think you have a chance to introduce your friend to hunting and make a favorable impression. You should:

- invite your friend to wear some hunter-orange clothing and go deer hunting with you on a nice day, even though he/she doesn't have a license or a gun. You go into an area where you have a good chance of seeing some deer and possibly other wildlife. If you see a legal deer, you pass it up.
- Invite your friend to come along to help drag out a deer you shot earlier that day.
- Invite your friend to go with you even though he/she wouldn't be carrying a gun, then try to shoot at as many legal deer as you can.
- Tell your friend all you know about hunting, especially all the details of how to kill and field dress an animal.
- Other

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dilemma #4**

As you and your friend arrive at the spot where you like to hunt grouse, you see two other hunters walking along the line of brush that you normally hunt. From previous experience, you know the only good hunting is along that brush and especially at a spring about a half-mile beyond the two hunters. You should:

- leave and go somewhere else since the other hunters were here first.
- Quickly take another road that gets you closer to the spring. If you hurry, you could hunt that area before the other hunters get there.
- go ahead and hunt, but take another route around the brush, even though past experience says it won't be as good hunting.
- go ahead and hunt your normal area. You and your friend are fast walkers; maybe you can get ahead of the other hunters.
- other

#### **D. Procedure for Hunting Laws and Regulations:**

A. Conduct this part of the lesson with the entire group. Explain that it is very important that hunters know where to find information about hunting hours, licenses, tags and other regulations. The following exercise will help them learn where different kinds of information is located in the Abstracts.

Pass out copies of the Abstracts. Give each student the worksheet and ask them to complete the worksheet for pheasant hunting exercise. When they are done, go over the answers with the students.

### **STUDENT WORKSHEET**

Use the Mass Wildlife Abstract as a reference for locating the pertinent information for the following activity.....

#### **Pheasant Hunting on a Wildlife Management Area**

**License, Permit &/or Stamp requirements:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Hunting Season and Hours:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Blaze Orange requirements:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Legal Means and Methods:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bag Limits/Other Restrictions on Taking:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Tagging and Transportation requirements:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Hunting Laws and Regulations

# Instructor's Answer Sheet

### Pheasant Hunting on a Wildlife Management Area

License, Permit &/or Stamp requirements: Resident hunting license required for anyone 15 or older  
Non-resident small or big game. No permit required

Hunting Season and Hours: Check Abstracts annually for dates; first Saturday after Columbus Day to  
the Saturday after Thanksgiving; Hunting hours are Sunrise to Sunset in WMA

Blaze Orange requirements: Orange hat or cap is required to hunt in WMAs during pheasant or  
quail season where pheasant or quail are stocked

Legal Means and Methods: Shotgun and archery, licensed falconers may hunt pheasant from first  
Saturday after Columbus Day to the following March 15

Bag Limits/Other Restrictions on Taking: Use of rifles prohibited on WMAs; Bag limit: 2 Daily,  
4 possession and 6 for the entire season

Tagging and Transportation requirements: No tagging or transportation requirements

## Appendix

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## **Division Release and Waiver Form**

In consideration of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife providing the \_\_\_\_\_ Club (club) with pheasants and hunting safety kits, I, \_\_\_\_\_, being lawfully authorized by the club to execute this release, do hereby release, acquit and discharge the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of Fish and Game and their employees and agents (Commonwealth) from all claims and demands of whatever nature arising out of the club's participation in the Massachusetts Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program (program).

I hereby further covenant and agree on behalf of the club, that the club shall save and hold harmless, and shall indemnify the Commonwealth from and against all injury or death to any person or loss of or damage to any property arising directly or indirectly out of or in connection with the program, and from and against all injury or death to any person or loss of or damage to any property anywhere occasioned, or claimed to have been occasioned, by any act, neglect or default of the club, its members, agents, employees, guests, licensees or contractors. This hold harmless and indemnity agreement shall include indemnity against all costs, expenses and liabilities incurred in connection with any such injury, death, loss or damage or in defense of any claim or claims on account thereof, including reasonable attorney's fees.

**Witness my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 200\_\_\_\_\_.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature and title**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Witness**

**Completed form must be mailed by June 15<sup>th</sup> to:**

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife  
 Field Headquarters  
 1 Rabbit Hill Road  
 Westborough, MA 01581

Attn: Youth Hunt Program Coordinator

## Request for Pheasants and Program Materials

Club name and address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed date of pre-hunt workshop: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed date of pheasant hunt (*The hunt must take place on one of the following six Saturdays in 2009: **Sept. 5, Sept.12, Sept.19, Sept. 26, Oct.3 or Oct. 12***):

\_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated number of participants \_\_\_\_\_

Will your club require the use of a WMA for the pheasant hunt? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_

*Participation must be open to the general public and not just club members. Club grounds also have be open to the general public during the regular pheasant hunting season if pheasants are received from the Division and released on club property. See pages 6-7 of the program guide for further information.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Completed form must be mailed by June 15<sup>th</sup> to:**

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife  
 Field Headquarters  
 1 Rabbit Hill Road  
 Westborough, MA 01581

Attn: Youth Hunt Program Coordinator

## To-Do Checklist for Clubs

1. Develop particular program tasks, create committees and assign committee members the responsibility for these tasks.
2. Be sure to complete and send the Request for Pheasants and Materials and Waiver Liability forms to the Division by June 15.
3. Have responsible adult volunteers and safe, experienced hunters and dog handlers organized and familiar with their assigned hunt participants, hunting areas, bag limits and schedules prior to the arrival of the hunt participants.
4. Review volunteer conduct guidelines with all volunteers.
5. Make arrangements in advance with your local District Wildlife Office to pick up your pheasants for the hunt.
6. Have emergency medical plans in place, including a completed emergency medical authorization form on file for each registered participant.
7. Notify the Local and the Environmental Police of the date and time of your event.
8. Have two-way radios available to communicate with your hunting groups.
9. Consider providing coffee, juice, hot chocolate, donuts and bagels in the morning prior to the hunt.
10. Register all participants and be sure to have a signed and completed parental/guardian consent form and release form for each registered participant.
11. Check in all young adults going into and out of the field. Be sure everyone registered is accounted for at the end of the hunt.
12. Provide all participants with name tags.
13. Check that all young adult participants have their FID card (if necessary), hunter orange clothing, eye and ear protection.
14. Welcome the group and review safety matters, distribute schedule of activities for the hunt, location of facilities, club rules, medical emergency procedures, etc.
15. Make pairing assignments of young adult participants with experienced hunters and dog handlers.
16. Have appropriate accommodations for participants in the event of inclement weather.
17. Consider if any transportation is necessary to place participants into hunting areas.
18. See that all harvested birds are properly tagged.
19. Consider providing lunch such as a cookout after the hunt. Think about combining the wild game cleaning and cooking demonstration at the same time.
20. ***Have all participants complete the post-hunt survey*** and evaluation form after finishing the pheasant hunt. It is important to obtain this valuable feedback information in order to evaluate the success of the program. ***These completed survey forms should be mailed to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Field Headquarters' office in Westborough, MA.***
21. Have a post-hunt Club meeting to review all aspects of the program. Solicit as much feedback as possible to identify ways in which you might improve the experience for all participants involved. Report your results to your Club members at your next meeting and use the opportunity to generate interest for next season.
22. Thank all committee members, volunteers, and dog handlers for their valuable time and contributions to the program.

**I would like to VOLUNTEER to help with the  
Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program**

Please complete and return this form to the \_\_\_\_\_ Club.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The best times to reach me are: \_\_\_\_\_

- I will help provide training and instruction on proper and safe shotgun shooting techniques.
- I would like to help with the pre-hunt workshop.
- I would like to help demonstrate the proper techniques for cleaning and cooking pheasants.
- I have well-trained bird dogs and would like to be a guide for the pheasant hunt. I am available:
- during the event at the following times: \_\_\_\_\_
  - for pre- and post-hunt activities that may take place on days preceding or following the main event.
- My dogs are the following breeds: \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to help cook or serve food at the event. I am available to help at the following times: \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to help with registration. I can help:
- with pre-registration
  - during the event at the following times: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to mentor a young adult hunter. I am available:
  - during the event at the following times: \_\_\_\_\_
  - for pre- and post-hunt activities that may take place on days preceding or following the main event.
  
- I have an appropriate, safe and reliable shotgun that can be borrowed by a youth hunter for the event. What gauge? \_\_\_\_\_ (*Semi-automatic shotguns are NOT preferred for new hunters.*)
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  
- I am interested in photography and would like to take pictures. I am available:
  - during the event at the following times: \_\_\_\_\_
  - for pre- and post-hunt activities that may take place on days preceding or following the main event.
  
- Please let me know what I can do. I am available:
  - during the event at the following times: \_\_\_\_\_
  - for pre- and post-hunt activities that may take place on days preceding or following the main event.

*-See next page for Volunteer Conduct Guidelines-*

## Volunteer Conduct Guidelines

As a volunteer for the \_\_\_\_\_ Club, I agree to conduct myself in a professional manner and help to maintain a safe, positive environment for all program participants in the Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program.

### **I will not:**

- Use illegal drugs or alcohol at any time before or during the program.
- Wear clothing that displays offensive or inappropriate language or graphics.
- Engage in any offensive or inappropriate behavior with any program participant.
- Use profane or degrading language.
- Lobby for or promote private, political or religious causes, or distribute material that does not meet the approval of the sponsoring Club.
- Deliberately take actions that place a program participant or volunteer in an unsafe situation, regardless of whether the activity results in harm or injury.

I have read and understand these guidelines and promise to fully comply with them.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Volunteer's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Youth Participant Registration

Youth participant's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/legal guardian's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Youth participant will be accompanied and supervised by the following adult(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of this adult to the youth participant: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe the youth participant's experience in hunting (first-time bird hunting, some experience bird hunting, first time bird hunting, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

---

I understand and agree that by signing this registration form I will follow all safety precautions as they are explained to me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Youth participant's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/legal guardian's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Emergency Medical Authorization Form

Please attach to this completed form a copy of your child's health insurance card to facilitate prompt authorization of medical treatment in the case of an emergency.

Youth participant's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Health insurance: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_

Residential parent or legal guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate relative or childcare provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Known allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Last tetanus shot: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information/ special instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent/legal guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Parental/ Legal Guardian Consent Form

I, \_\_\_\_\_ the parent/legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (child) desire to have my child participate in the Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program (program) held by the \_\_\_\_\_ Club, And hereby consent to my child's participation in the program and grant the club the unconditional right to use my child's name, voice and photographic likeness in connection with articles, press releases and audio/video productions resulting from this event.

In giving my consent for my child to participate in the program, I understand that hunting is a sport involving firearms which, if mishandled can be dangerous and cause serious injury and/or death to my child or others. I understand and agree that my child will use utmost care during his/her participation in the program, and agree that he/she will adhere to the standards, guidelines and requirements of hunting and firearms safety. I understand and agree that my child will follow the safety instructions given to him/her by the club, its members, agents, employees, instructors and volunteers. I understand and agree that the club reserves the right to remove my child from the program if, in their opinion his/her safety or the safety of others is jeopardized. I understand and agree that I or another adult authorized by me shall be present with my child during all activities and events of the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Release and Indemnification Agreement

In consideration for, and as an inducement to the \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Club (club) allowing my child to participate in the Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program (program), and recognizing that my child's participation in the program involves the sport of hunting with firearms which by its very nature is a dangerous activity, I, \_\_\_\_\_, parent/legal guardian intending to be legally bound, hereby, for my child, myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, voluntarily assume all risks of accident, injury or death and release and forever discharge the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the club and their officers, agents, employees, volunteers and assigns (parties) of and from any and all claims, debts, demands, actions, causes of actions, suits, dues, sum and sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, specialties, agreements, promises, doings, omissions, damages, executions and liabilities of whatsoever kind and nature, including but not limited to any and all liability for personal injury, death or property damage of any kind, both at law and in equity, and any that have been or may be claimed before any governmental agency, which have arisen or may arise as a result of or in association with my child's participation in the program.

I hereby further covenant and agree that I shall save the parties harmless and shall indemnify the parties from and against all injury or death to any person or loss of or damage to any property arising directly or indirectly out of or in connection with my child's participation in the program, and from and against all injury or death to any person or loss of or damage to any property anywhere occasioned, or claimed to have been occasioned, by any act, neglect or default of the undersigned, its agents, employees, guests, licensees or contractors. This hold harmless and indemnity agreement shall include indemnity against all costs, expenses and liabilities incurred in connection with any such injury, death, loss or damage or in defense of any claim or claims on account thereof, including reasonable attorney's fees.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Young Adult Pheasant Hunt – Post Program Participant Survey

1. How would you rate your overall experience in the Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program? (*circle one*)
 

Excellent      Very Good      Good      Fair      Poor
2. Would you recommend the Young Adult Pheasant Hunt Program to a friend?
 

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did you participate in all three parts of the program (i.e., target shooting and practice, the pre-hunt workshop and the pheasant hunt)?
 

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
4. Check the parts of the program that you did participate in?
 

Target shooting and practice \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-hunt workshop \_\_\_\_\_

Pheasant hunt \_\_\_\_\_
5. How did you find out about the program? (*check one*)
  - a. Hunter Education Program \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Conservation Camp \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Website \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Friend \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Family member \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Sportsmen's Club \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. Other \_\_\_\_\_
6. As a result of participating in this program, did you develop an interest in clay target shooting?
 

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_
7. Prior to participating in this program, have you ever hunted before?
 

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
8. Has your interest in hunting increased as a result of participating in the program?
 

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_
9. Will you pheasant hunt during the regular season this fall?
 

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
10. Please tell us any suggestions you may have to improve the program.
 

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# NOTES