



# Outdoor Adventures



**Life's better outside.®**  
**PROUD PARTNER**

**News**

**TPWD Order Forms are on this page! Click on the links and download your Hunter, Angler and Boater Order Forms. Do this Today!**

**A Few Reminders...**

- TPWD Has New Email Addresses p. 2
- Hunter Education will have some new programs. These will not change the way you teach Hunter Education in your classroom at your school

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

<b>1</b>	News – Calendar of Events /Teacher Training
<b>2</b>	New TPWD Email Addresses
<b>3</b>	Teacher Training Flyer
<b>4-5</b>	TPWD Hunter Education Proposed Changes
<b>4</b>	
<b>5-6</b>	

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- DSC S.A.F.E.T.Y. Event – Sept. 21, 2013
- Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience – Jan. 9, 2014
- No Dove Hunt this year due to drought.

.....

**Teacher Training**

**New Teacher Training (Details on Page 3)**

- TPWD Angler Education
- TPWD Boater Education Instructor
- TPWD Hunter Education Instructor
- National Archery in Schools Program
- Dutch Oven Cooking - CPR/First Aid

**Welcome New North Texas Hunter Education Specialist**  
**Monica Bickerstaff**  
[monica.bickerstaff@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:monica.bickerstaff@tpwd.texas.gov)

TPWD Supply Order Forms – ORDER TODAY!!!!

[Hunter Education Supply Order Form](#)

[Hunter Education Video Order Form](#)

[Angler Education Supply Order Form](#)

[Boater Education Supply Order Form](#)

\* Click the link for forms \*



Life's better outside.®

PROUD PARTNER

# Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Changes

## **New Email Address:**

Hunter Education Manager - [Robert.ramirez@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Robert.ramirez@tpwd.texas.gov)

Hunter Education Technician – [Kathryn.powell@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Kathryn.powell@tpwd.texas.gov)

Hunter Ed. Specialist North Texas - [Monica.bickerstaff@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Monica.bickerstaff@tpwd.texas.gov)

Hunter Ed. Specialist Southeast Texas – [Heidi.Rao@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Heidi.Rao@tpwd.texas.gov)

Hunter Ed. Specialist West Texas – [Jimmie.caughron@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Jimmie.caughron@tpwd.texas.gov)

Hunter Ed. Specialist South Texas – [Brock.minton@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Brock.minton@tpwd.texas.gov)

NASP Coordinator – [Burnie.Kessner@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Burnie.Kessner@tpwd.texas.gov)

Community Archery Specialist – [Danny.yarbrough@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Danny.yarbrough@tpwd.texas.gov)

Angler Education Manager – [Karen.marks@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Karen.marks@tpwd.texas.gov)

Angler Education Specialist North Texas – [Keira.quam@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Keira.quam@tpwd.texas.gov)

Angler Education Specialist Central Texas – [Caleb.harris@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Caleb.harris@tpwd.texas.gov)

Angler Education Specialist South Texas – [Greg.akins@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Greg.akins@tpwd.texas.gov)

Boater Education Manager – [Tim.spice@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Tim.spice@tpwd.texas.gov)

[supply.request@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:supply.request@tpwd.texas.gov)

**TPWD**

**4200 Smith School Road**

**Austin, TX 78744**

**1-800-792-1112**

## **New Boater Education Information**

1. The Coast Guard has published the 2012 accident report. Last year was the lowest recorded boating related fatalities ever recorded. All water safety efforts are having a positive effect. You may download the statistics from the link: <http://www.uscgboating.org/>
2. There were over 10 young people and family members who gave testimonials about a water related accident that happened to them or a loved one. It was a powerful two days. We expect to have the video available on the TPWD YouTube site for use in your Boater Education courses this fall. It will be a great addition to your courses.



## Teacher Training RSVP

**940-465-0366**

**RSVP for each training. I have provided several dates for each training. Please check your schedules and let me know today! The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Hunter Instructor and Boat Safety will require some home work prior to the training. I will review the requirements for each upon your RSVP.**

**RSVP: [scot@dallasecologicalfoundation.org](mailto:scot@dallasecologicalfoundation.org)**

### Teacher Training in North Texas for Summer 2013 – Location – Argyle (DFW)

<b>TPWD Hunter Instructor.....</b>	<b>8:00 – 2:00</b>	<b>July 22</b>
<b>Texas Archery in Schools Program.....</b>	<b>8:00 – 4:30</b>	<b>July 23</b>
<b>TPWD Boater Education Instructor.....</b>	<b>8:00 – 2:00</b>	<b>July 24</b>
<b>TPWD Angler Instructor .....</b>	<b>8:00 – 2:00</b>	<b>July 25</b>
<b>Dutch Oven Cooking/ First Aid/CPR.....</b>	<b>9:00 – 3:00</b>	<b>July 26</b>

### Additional Hunter Instructor Classes

CORPUS CHRISTI	Sat Feb 1, 2014	8:00 AM	(361) 853-8644
HOUSTON	Sun Oct 13, 2013	8:00 AM	(832) 344-2110
OLMITO	Sat Jul 20, 2013	8:30 AM	(830) 456-1763 (@Resaca de la Palma State Park)

### Additional Angler Education Instructor Classes

July 20, 2013 9:00-1:00, Sherman, TX, Jerry Hamon, [revtcf@gmail.com](mailto:revtcf@gmail.com), 214-457-3407

### Additional NASP – BAI Courses – contact [burnie.kessner@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:burnie.kessner@tpwd.state.tx.us)

August 7, 2013 – 7:45- 4:00, Burleson M.S., Burleson, TX

August 17, 2013 – 7:45-4:00, Lubbock, TX

August 19, 2013 – 7:45 -4:00, Waxahachie, TX

August 20, 2013 – 7:45-4:00, North East I.S.D., San Antonio, TX – very limited space

### Additional Dutch-Oven Cooking classes

July 13, 2013, 9:30 AM-11:30 AM, Cooper Lake State Park/South Sulphur Unit, Jim Beach, [james.beach@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:james.beach@tpwd.texas.gov) 903-945-5256

# Hunter Education Proposed Changes FAQs

For more information:

Nancy Herron, Outreach & Education Director, 512.389.4362

Robert Ramirez, Hunter Education Manager, 512.389.8140

## 1. Why are we considering this change?

TPWD has seen the positive effects of hunter education on accident rates in Texas and remains committed to it. But over the years we have also continually worked to improve hunter education. What prompted another look is the extent of the course and effectively serving the needs of the variety people who take and should be (but aren't) taking hunter education. Although hunter education itself has not been shown to be a barrier to hunting, "time" is quoted as a barrier to hunting and taking hunting education. Across the country, states are engaged in a national discussion on the length of hunter education courses. We hope that offering more convenient and accessible options will get more people certified, and also offer us some more effective ways to teach hunter education. TPWD will continue to evaluate hunting incident and accident data to monitor the results of these changes.

## 2. How would the course content change?

Staff and a task force of volunteers considered the essential, core skills for basic certification to prepare students to hunt safely, legally, ethically and responsibly. Staff then combed through the current 112 hunter education objectives, cross-referencing with common hunting accidents, the International Hunter Education Association course standards, requirements in statute and in TPW Commission Rule. Staff identified 35 core skills for basic hunter education. Basic certification would focus on safe handling and use of firearms; hunting safety, skills and ethics; hunting laws and regulations; and basics of wildlife conservation. Staff determined that the additional objectives and content may be more appropriately considered advanced topics, such as primitive hunting techniques, preparation and survival skills, more in-depth information on wildlife conservation and specialized hunting techniques.

## 3. When will the changes go into effect?

The proposed changes will be voted on by the TPW Commission on August 22, 2013. If approved, changes are expected to be effective mid- to late September 2013. (There are several steps to make it official.) Until then, current hunter education rules remain in place.

## 4. How may I comment regarding the proposed changes?

Once the proposed changes are posted to the Texas Register, you can submit public comment for thirty (30) days on the [TPWD website](#)(underTPWCommission)or to Nancy Herron, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas, 78744; (512) 389-4362 (e-mail: [nancy.herron@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:nancy.herron@tpwd.texas.gov)). Public comments will be summarized and presented to the TPW Commission in August. You also have two opportunities to provide comment in person to the TPW Commission, during the August 22 agenda item when it's up for discussion, or at the August 21, 2PM annual public hearing. Both are at 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744.

## 5. How might the proposed changes be better for students?

If the TPW Commission passes the proposed changes, students will have several course options to fit their needs:

- 1) a basic course of 5 hours;
- 2) an enhanced course with online home study and field skills course;
- 3) an advanced course through school or special workshops; or
- 4) an online-only course for those over the age of 16.

The in-person basic hunter education course would focus on core skills for firearm and hunting safety, hunting laws and regulations, hunter responsibility and ethics and the basics of wildlife conservation.

The enhanced course would combine online and in-person instruction. This mirrors the current homestudy plus field day course, covering basic skills and more advanced topics through online home study and a skills trail. These often offer a live fire exercise.

Advanced in-person courses would go beyond the five-hour minimum and include basic skills for certification plus additional hunting topics and techniques, wildlife identification and outdoor survival skills. Advanced workshops would be after basic certification.

The online-only instruction would go through both basic and advanced content with randomized final exams.

It's sobering to go through the hunting accident report and see that most hunting accidents are preventable. We also know very few accidents are caused by hunter education graduates. By focusing on core skills, instructors can incorporate skills demonstrations in class that could help prevent the most common hunting accidents. By offering convenient courses, more people can take hunter education. By encouraging advanced workshops and mentored hunts, instructors can go into depth with an audience who is ready for more.

We will continue to provide the extensive hunter education manual to all our students as student reference and additional reading;

for teachers using it as part of a course curriculum not restricted by 5 hours; and for advanced workshops and mentored hunts. The online course will continue to have the more extensive content.

Studies show that many who take hunter education do not go on to hunt. By offering a "what's next" opportunity of a mentored hunt or advanced workshop, we hope more people will overcome those early obstacles and connect with the heritage of hunting.

**6. How might the proposed changes be better for volunteer instructors?**

The proposed change will give instructors greater flexibility for scheduling classes and workshops. For example, instead of one class over a weekend, an instructor could offer two. This will also offer more choices for students to work a class into their schedules. By teaching more classes and certifying more students, there will be more safe hunters afield. Instructors could also earn additional incentive points.

We are excited about the opportunity to develop more mentored hunts and advanced hunter education workshops. Here's where volunteers can share their unique skills and interests through workshops such as: Waterfowl Hunting, Deer Hunting, Small Game Hunting, Field Dressing and Processing Deer, Tracking Wildlife, Cooking Wild Game, Alligator Hunting, Sighting in a Rifle & Gun Cleaning, and Outdoor Survival Skills. Staff will work with instructors on developing more advanced workshops and mentored hunts.

**7. What other States are considering online-only instruction hunter education?**

States that currently offer online certification with state-specific criteria are: Indiana, Oklahoma, Montana and Florida. Alabama will offer online instruction in September 2013. Wisconsin has an adult-only one hour test and skills assessment administered by state officials.

**8. How many students would be affected the first year?**

It is hard to determine numbers since these are options, not requirements, Students will choose the course that best fits their needs. Typically we train 35,000-40,000 students a year, Last year we certified over 45,000 students.

**9. How many are taking the course online now?**

A little less than a third of students took the home study plus field skills option in 2012. Online-only certification was not an option.

**10. Is TPWD phasing out volunteer instructors?**

Definitely not! Volunteers have been a vital part of the hunter education program and will continue to be the backbone of the program. It is the goal of the hunter education program to encourage motivated volunteers to offer advanced hunter education workshops and participate in mentored hunts.

**11. I teach only home-study/field day courses. How will this affect me?**

There will be very little change. The instructor must include ethics and game laws, skills trail, live fire and the exam. All must be completed within five hours.

**12. I teach more hours as part of my school curriculum. How will this affect me?**

You will not be affected and can continue to offer both basic and advanced curriculum as you have in the past. There is a statement in the proposed rule changes that states, "Nothing in the rule prohibits a person from providing or receiving more hunter education instruction than is required."

**13. What teaching tools are available to make the change?**

In anticipation of a change, TPWD Hunter Education staff and volunteers are piloting a new curriculum PowerPoint™, a new outline, and a new final exam which is compatible with current test key. These items will be on the TPWD Hunter Education website under "Instructor Resources." Use of the new outline is pending TPW Commission approval of the hunter education changes.

**14. Will "Today's Hunter in Texas" textbook continue to be used?**

Yes, TPWD Hunter Education has contacted the publisher to reorganize the content to reflect the changes; however, no content will be removed. The new textbooks will be phased in for the 2014-2015 season.

**15. Will the course fee be affected by the proposed changes?**

Volunteer-led courses would remain at \$15, with \$10 for the volunteer and \$5 to the state. Online-only course fees would be set by the provider, with \$5 coming to the state. Also proposed is eliminating a reduced hunter education course fee for those with current deferrals, due to the difficulty of verifying deferral holders with online providers.

The current TPWD online course will not be used for online-only certification as we do not at this time have the ability to track an individual nor create random exams from a bank of questions. It will remain available as a free-of-charge option to be used as part of an enhanced (home study + field skills) \$15 course. If passed, the state would continue to collect \$5 per student, regardless of the method of certification.