



H O W - T O G U I D E FAMILY FIRST HUNT EVENT

As a Delta volunteer, you likely know the enjoyment and satisfaction in introducing individuals to waterfowling. Delta First Hunts have introduced tens of thousands of people of all ages to hunting and waterfowl conservation since 2003. Mentoring a whole family all at the same time is a highly effective and enjoyable way to introduce newcomers to waterfowl hunting. Imagine helping to create a family bond that can pass through generations. The chances of a family continuing to hunt on their own is greater than an individual who may not have support to fall back on. Sharing with a local family, traditions many may take for granted, is a terrific project for your Delta chapter to support with your Waterfowl Heritage Fund dollars.



GET STARTED:

1. Plan:

- Pull your chapter volunteers together and brainstorm about when and where to make a family hunt happen.
- Especially look for opportunities that will be repeatable for a family on their own without a lot of investment.
- Think public land—walk-in or wade-in hunting if possible.

2. Put out the word:

- Use a community Facebook page or social media channels to begin looking for an interested family well before the hunting day(s).
- Utilize Delta's fill-in-the-blank posters to distribute to local gathering places. Think outside the box when deciding where to place them.
- You may be even able to publicize through a local middle school, high school, or church.

3. Find the right family:

- When families respond to your post or advertisement, have a few questions ready to gauge their willingness and commitment to try new things.
- Make sure they will all take the hunter safety course online or in-person prior to the hunt.



PRE-HUNT PREPARATION AND SHOOTING SKILLS:

1. Pre-Hunt Preparation:

- Focus on the essentials: licensing, HIP survey, and shotshells for waterfowling.
- Provide a checklist of gear and inexpensive acquisition options or offer to loan gear.
- Help participants purchase the appropriate licenses online or at a local retailer.

2. On the Range:

- At a safe location, offer basic wingshooting skills instruction individually to family members.
- Check with your state conservation department and/or local conservation officers to learn if they have personnel, equipment, and/or facilities to assist.

3. Mentorship Approach:

- Two good mentors per family is best. (Discuss ahead of time who will be “lead” mentor and who is the assistant.)
- Plan the hunt carefully, taking into consideration any special needs they might have.
- Emphasize safety, comfort, and enjoyment throughout.

4. Gearing Up:

- Provide gear that fits as well as possible. Make sure it’s not too bulky or restrictive.



IN THE FIELD (HUNT DAY):

1. Mentor's Role:

- Prioritize safety, comfort, and enjoyment for the participants.
- Mentors should assist in spotting birds, calling the shots, and identifying birds.
- Explain things to the whole family as you do them — decoys, calling, dogs, etc.
- Mentors do not shoot during the event; focus solely on enjoyment of participants.

2. Post-Hunt:

- Ensure birds are correctly assigned to hunters.
- Properly prepare the birds for transport and/or the table.
- Direct them to recipes at: <https://deltawaterfowl.org/whats-new/recipes/>
- Encourage participants to share photos and videos, tagging Delta Waterfowl.

FINAL NOTES:

- Safety, Comfort, and Enjoyment are the overarching theme of every phase of the event.
- Leverage Delta's extensive Hunter3 support network to ensure the event runs smoothly and answers for any unforeseen challenges you may encounter.