



H O W - T O G U I D E WOMEN'S FIRST HUNT EVENT

The fastest growing demographic in hunting continues to be women. They want to learn how to hunt and mostly don't want to be treated differently from the men in camp. This holds true for waterfowling as well. However, when it comes to learning new pursuits, some women tend to be most comfortable surrounded by other women. Organizing a Women's First Hunt event, might be a great way for your chapter to put Waterfowl Heritage Fund dollars to work in your community.



GET STARTED:

1. Put out the word:

- Use a community Facebook page or social media channel to begin publicizing the First Hunt well before the event.
- Utilize Delta's fill-in-the-blank posters to distribute to local gathering places. Think outside the box when deciding where to place them—a local gym, whole foods store, college bulletin board, etc.

2. Make the invitation:

- Provide a phone number which interested potential participants can call or text to ask questions. It's great way to make the invitation in person.
- Create a document covering FAQs and providing an application for the event that you can easily and quickly email or text to anyone with interest.





PRE-HUNT PREPARATION AND SHOOTING SKILLS

(These are largely the same for women as for men.)

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.

2. On the Range:

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

3. Mentorship Approach:

- Finding experienced women mentors is a big help and can make participants even more comfortable.
- Pair two participants with one mentor who will also guide them while hunting.
- Emphasize safety, comfort, and enjoyment throughout.

4. Gearing Up:

- If applicable, break up the sessions with gear fitting (waders, jackets, shotguns, etc.). Comparatively, hunting gear designed specifically to fit women has not been available as long as it has for men. Strive to provide them well-fitting gear that's comfortable and not so bulky it might hinder them.



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.
- 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 HunterR3 support network to ensure the event runs smoothly and answers for any unforeseen challenges.