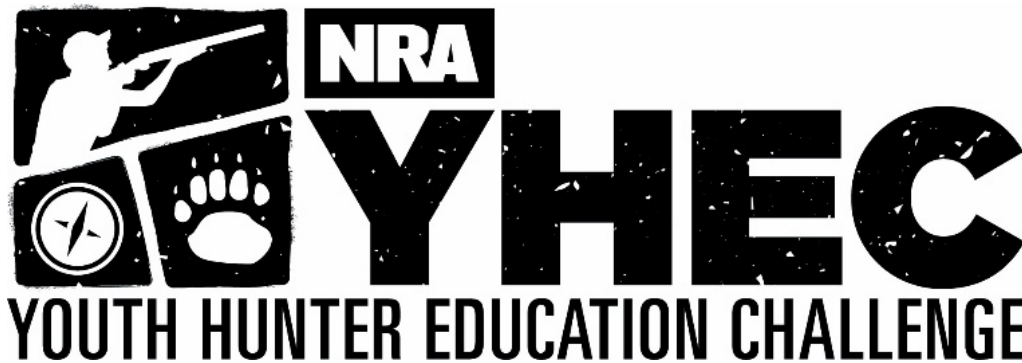


“BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HUNTERS”

2026 NRA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



OFFICIAL RULES, REGULATIONS, AND REGISTRATION

JULY 19-25, 2026

Benton County Quail



11701 Quail Barn Road
Bentonville, AR. 72712

ISSUED 01/05/26

2026 NATIONAL YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE

Caution: Procedures and techniques outlined in this publication may require special abilities, technical knowledge, or safety considerations. The National Rifle Association of America (its agents, officers, and employees) accepts no responsibility for the results obtained by persons using these procedures and techniques and disclaims all liability for any consequential injuries or damages.

Mention of products or technical data does not necessarily mean they have been tested by the authors or NRA Staff, and does not constitute endorsement or verification by the NRA.

Local restrictions may apply to some techniques, procedures, and products in your area. Check local laws and game regulations before proceeding.

These Official Rules and Regulations are located on <https://yhec.nra.org/>

IMPORTANT NOTICE

ALL NATIONAL YHEC PARTICIPANTS/COACHES ARE RESPONSIBLE TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF ALL EVENT RULES, REGULATIONS AND CONTENTS OF THIS PROGRAM MANUAL.

Official Rules and Regulations Manual National Event

NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge

(A program of the National Rifle Association of America)

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REVISED 01/05/2026

WELCOME TO THE 2026 NATIONAL YHEC CHAMPIONSHIP

On behalf of the National Rifle Association, the Youth Hunter Education Challenge is excited to invite you to the 2026 National Championship. Our goal is to provide you with a challenging, yet fun and memorable experience for all attendees especially our youth who are our “...*Next Generation of Young Hunters.*” This Rules and Registration Guide will provide you with the information needed for attending the 2026 YHEC National Championship.

The “National YHEC Championship” will be held at the Benton County Quail Facility located in Bentonville, Arkansas. BCQ is a very gracious sponsor and host, allowing us the use of their large facility, which provides many desirable and useful options suitable for our competition. Bentonville, AR., with its many amenities is a great location to host YHEC as Northwest Arkansas offers a large variety of lodging options from budget to 5-Star hotels, Airbnb, RV Parks and unique Bed and Breakfast. There are many restaurants in the area to cater to any taste or budget. Shopping opportunities abound at the many shopping centers and businesses close by. You will find recreational opportunities from world class biking trails, golf courses, trophy trout fishing, beautiful lakes, and countless museums. Come Early! Stay Later! Enjoy the best that Arkansas offers.

Please read the enclosed Rules and Registration carefully. To ensure a safe, fun, and exciting event all coaches and competitors should become familiar with the rules and regulations contained within. While these rules remain very similar to last year, any significant changes have been highlighted for your review. Registration forms have been streamlined and can be filled out and mailed or emailed. (YHEC hopes to have on-line registration set up in the next few weeks). Enclosed is a “Tentative” YHEC Event Schedule to help you plan your travel. Final schedules will be updated and sent out closer to event date. Lodging opportunities that will offer special YHEC rates are being compiled and will be sent out later this month.

YHEC will conduct all eight NRA/YHEC Events plus the increasingly popular YHEC Hunting Pistol Challenge. Fun activities for the entire family include “Gary Purtillo’s” Flu-Flu Challenge, 3-Person Shotgun Flurry, Trade Night, and Cajun Night/Dance as well as several other activities. We will also have an expanded “Sales Area” featuring hunting clothes, boots, and a wide variety of shooting/hunting items.

If our YHEC youth are the “Lifeblood” of YHEC, then our Volunteers are the “Heart and Soul” of YHEC. YHEC is very fortunate to have many dedicated and hard-working volunteers that are a part of the YHEC tradition. The many events that make up YHEC cannot safely and efficiently operate without the hard work and many hours provided by our Volunteers. We encourage you to be a part of the “Volunteer Team” that is crucial to the success of YHEC. YHEC Volunteers are provided lodging and meals! As an added incentive, YHEC is making it possible for Volunteers with families to have lodging and meal options provided for them. Please refer to the Volunteer Registration Form on how to register and for the extra incentives for Volunteers.

SOCIAL MEDIA, STAYING CONNECTED, INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Staying connected is very important! Join us on Facebook. The newest and latest information regarding YHEC will be posted on the National YHEC Facebook. YHEC maintains an email mailing list. If your team or club has members that need to be added to the YHEC email list, please send the email contact information to jobepack@hotmail.com or call 713-253-7914.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Castle
NRA/YHEC Coordinator

Matt Fleming
NRA Director, Hunting Services

Gary Jobe
National YHEC Championship

2026 NATIONAL YHEC TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction to YHEC/ About YHEC.....	4
General Rules.....	5-6
YHEC Safety Rules/Event Safety Rules.....	7
Gun And Archery Safety Rules.....	8
Eligibility for Participation in the NRA YHEC	9-10
YHEC Divisions	11
Code of Conduct	12-13
Rules and Regulations for Shooting Events.....	14-21
Rules and Regulations for Responsibility Events.....	22-26
Scoring Criteria for YHEC Events/Tie Breaking Criteria.....	27
Challenges, Protest, Alibis During YHEC Events.....	29
YHEC Event Dates.....	29
Entries and Cancellations for YHEC Participants	29
YHEC Participant Accommodations, Meals and Travel.....	31
Interstate Transportation of Firearms/Airline Requirements.....	30-31
Local/State YHEC Sponsorships Requirements.....	31
About the NRA.....	32
Participant/Coach Registration.....	33
Volunteer With Lodging Registration.....	34
Volunteer With Out Lodging Registration.....	35
Release Waiver Form.....	36

ADDENDUMS

A. Rules for Hunting Pistol Challenge.....	37
B. Youth Handgun Act Transportation Form.....	38
C. Visitor Hotel Discount Program.....	39
D. 2026 Schedule of Events.....TENTATIVE	40
E. Compass and Orienteering	41
F. Ducks Unlimited YHEC Duck Calling Championship.....	42-43

Introduction to YHEC

About YHEC

Sponsored by the National Rifle Association of America (NRA), the Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) Championship event is open to any youth that has participated in their local/ state level NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge event for the current year. *(If a Local or State YHEC is **NOT** conducted in a participant's state, he/she may participate at the National YHEC Championship without prior event participation requirements.)* All participants in the NRA National YHEC Championship must have successfully completed a hunter safety course in North America.

The National YHEC Championship is a program of the NRA and sponsored by various organizations, including Arkansas Friends of NRA, Safari Club International, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Arkansas Rifle and Pistol Association, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Gun and Cartridge Collectors Club, Remington/Federal Ammunition, Bushnell, Allen Company, Feradyne Outdoors, Ducks Unlimited and Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

The YHEC program is divided into eight (8) * scoring events or activities:

Shooting Events-

1. Hunting Archery Challenge
2. Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge
3. Hunting Shotgun Challenge
4. Light Hunting Rifle Challenge

* A 5th Shooting event called Hunting Pistol Challenge is conducted at the YHEC National Championship. While the score in this event does not count towards "Overall Score", it is set up and scheduled as other shooting events. Awards and Door Prizes will be presented for this event. Refer to Addendum "A" below.

Responsibility Events-

5. Hunter Responsibility Exam
6. Hunter Safety Trail Challenge
7. Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge
8. Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge

In order to introduce and attract newer and younger competitors to YHEC, the National YHEC Championship will allow these youth to compete in as few as 1 Shooting and 1 Non-Shooting Event. While the youth can place or "medal" in the individual event, they will not be eligible for any Overall recognition unless they participate in all 8 events, regardless of the total score in the events they participated in. Teams must have all members participate in all 8 events for Team Awards.

GENERAL RULES

1. Registration material, including registration forms, releases and fees must be received by July 4, 2026. Registration forms can be submitted on-line, downloaded by email, or mailed. Registration Fees can be paid online, by phone using a CC or by check. (If mailed, please ensure that it is mailed in time to be received by the July 4, 2026 deadline.)
2. Attendees, including Competitors, Coaches, Volunteers and Participants are expected to always exhibit behavior above reproach. Damage or loss to the Benton County Quail Association's Property, YHEC Property/Equipment, or any individual's property will not be tolerated. Sponsoring Coaches are responsible for the behavior of their teams and attendees. Replacement and or reimbursement for damages to the property, facility, or contents will be the financial responsibility of the party involved.
3. All events, except the Hunting Responsibility Exam, will be held outside, so appropriate clothing is recommended. Teams are encouraged to wear team caps and shirts. Sun lotion/block and insect repellent is encouraged. Shoes, boots, and adequate footwear is required at events. No sandals or open toe shoes are to be worn while competing.
4. Events will not be canceled because of inclement weather, unless lightning or heavy thunderstorms are in the immediate area. Competitors and coaches should come prepared. It is very hot and humid in Arkansas in July. While YHEC will maintain several water and cooling stations, everyone is encouraged to provide their own water, drinks, and cooling solutions.
5. Competitors can provide their own ammunition and muzzleloader supplies, but must be kept under the supervision of the Team or Group Coach.
6. No broadhead arrows are allowed on YHEC/Benton County Quail property.
7. Firearms, bows and equipment will be inspected at each event for compliance to the rules as contained in this guide.
8. Coaches are accountable for verifying all competitors on their team are knowledgeable of all range rules, range procedures, and safety guidelines that are required for each type activity. Lack of knowledge on behalf of a competitor or coach of these rules, procedures, and standards will not serve as an "alibi" in a situation where a competitor or coach receives a warning or disqualified for an infraction.
9. Cell phones by participants, coaches, staff, and volunteers are not allowed when competing or while working at event sites. Please make sure phones are turned off or silenced when competing or working at event sites.
10. Clear Barrel Indicators (CBI) are required for all rifles, pistols, and muzzleloaders. CBI is not required for shotguns, but the shotgun must be cased when not in use with action open or "broken" whenever out of the case. Rifles, pistols, muzzleloaders must have CBI in place when removed from case, and always when not in use. The required CBI for muzzleloaders is a rod that is inserted into the bore and extends 3 inches or more above the muzzle with highly visible markings with exact locations of loaded and unloaded. Muzzle loaders, rifles, and pistols not having an appropriate CBI will not pass event inspection and will not be allowed.

11. To facilitate transfer of equipment to event sites, each “team” will be allowed to have one side by side UTV with trailer. The UTV must be driven by the registered team coach. UTV are not to be driven by any youth, any one not a registered coach, or any unauthorized person. The UTV is not to be used for joy riding or transporting of people, with the exception of handicap or those with a mobility issue. UTV is to stay on maintained road/trail, and not allowed on or within event sites. An ATV (Four-Wheeler) if connected to a trailer will be allowed to transport equipment.
12. Personal vehicles, such as cars, trucks, etc., are not allowed past the main parking area with the exception of Volunteers working at events or those with mobility issues.
13. In order to facilitate a timely and orderly schedule, all teams and groups of Individuals will be assigned a Relay and Rotation Schedule. Failure to check-in and compete at the assigned time frame will result in a forfeiture of scores for that event. There will not be a make-up time for those missing their scheduled rotation.
14. All Team Members and Groups of Individuals must be present at the event at time of check-in. In case a team member or individual is not present at the assigned check-in time they will forfeit their time slot to compete. The rest of the team or group of individuals may be allowed to compete but the absent member/competitor will not be allowed on the course once the rest of the team starts the event. There will not be any make-up time for the competitor missing their scheduled rotation.

SAFETY

YHEC Safety Rules

Safety is Shooting's Most Important Rule

These rules provide for the efficient and orderly operation of the NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC). Many local range regulations exist for one reason alone -- **SAFETY**. Others serve a dual purpose -- smooth range operation and safety. It's your responsibility as a participant or as a YHEC official to become familiar with the rules and to know the meaning behind those that are safety oriented.

Event Safety Rules

- A. Actions of uncased firearms must always be open except when on the firing line, ready to fire. CBI's must be used as indicated in General Rules #10 above.
- B. Guns are to be unloaded and arrows are not to be nocked until on the firing line and instructed by range officers to do so.
- C. All firearms must have a safety device with the exception of traditional muzzleloaders. The safety will always remain on at all times except when ready to fire.
- D. All firearms will be pointed, and bows drawn in a safe direction at all times.
- E. Know and obey all range commands. Arrive at each activity at least 15 minutes prior to relay time to receive activity orientation.
- F. Only one shell or cartridge may be placed in a firearm at a time, unless otherwise specified in the rules for the activity or by the Event Director.
- G. Participants, coaches and volunteers must wear adequate eye and ear protection while on the firing line. **Bluetooth hearing devices are not permitted to be used by any coach or participant.**
- H. Firearms and bows not in use should be placed in a gun or bow rack at the activity or stored in a secure place. The storing of firearms, ammunition and bows in vehicles is strongly discouraged. Those participants opting to utilize vehicles as a means of storage are solely responsible for their safekeeping.
- I. Firearms, bows and ammunition will not be permitted in any building or common area public access area.
- J. YHEC does not provide any firearm or bow storage area. Team Equipment Trailers are welcomed and should be locked when not in use.

Gun Safety Rules

The fundamental NRA rules for safe gun handling are:

- * **ALWAYS** keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
- * **ALWAYS** keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- * **ALWAYS** keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

When using or storing a gun, always follow these NRA rules:

- * Know your target and what is beyond.
- * Know how to use the gun safely.
- * Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
- * Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.
- * Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
- * Never use alcohol or over-the-counter prescription, or other drugs before or while shooting.
- * Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
- * Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.

Protection of your eyesight and hearing are **YOUR** responsibility. You are required to wear approved eye and ear protection while on the firing line as a competitor, coach, or volunteer. To learn more about gun safety, enroll in a NRA safety training or basic marksmanship course, NRA hunter clinic, state hunter education class or NRA on line Hunter Education course.

Archery Safety Rules

The fundamental rules for safe archery/bow handling are:

- * Do not nock an arrow on the bowstring until ready to use.
- * Always keep the bow with a nocked arrow pointed in a safe direction.
- * Never draw a bow with nocked arrow until ready to shoot.
- * Always keep field points or broadheads covered until ready to use.
- * All arrows drawn from a bow must be drawn parallel to the ground.
- * **Broadheads prohibited** in the YHEC program and on the BCQ Property.

When using or storing a bow, always follow these rules:

- * Be sure the bow is safe to operate.
- * Know how to safely use the bow and its equipment.
- * Use only the correct arrows and equipment for your bow.
- * Never use alcohol or over the counter, prescription, or other drugs before or while shooting.
- * Store bows and other archery equipment so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
- * Never dry-fire a bow.

Be aware that certain types of archery equipment and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.

Participation Guidelines

Eligibility for Participation in the NRA NATIONAL YHEC CHAMPIONSHIP

Participation in the NRA NATION YHEC CHAMPIONSHIP is open to:

- A. Any youth, 18 years old or younger, who is interested in attending the NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge. Youth participants may register as individuals or with a five (5)-member team at the National level. States that conduct annual events have the option to send both teams and individuals to the National YHEC Championship.
- B. Any registered YHEC Adult Coach. Coaches participate as individuals only.
(Refer to National YHEC Divisions detailed below.)

All participants ***must have successfully completed a hunter education course in North America or completed the NRA online Hunter Education Course***. Participants are not required to have taken the same hunter education course, nor have taken the class from the sponsoring instructor.

- C. Persons participating in NRA NATIONAL YHEC CHAMPIONSHIP must have:
 - 1) Participated in a current year's Local or State level NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge and meet age eligibility. Local and State level YHEC participants are subject to state level rules/requirements for participation first and foremost.

If an individual participates in a local or state event outside of their resident state, they will be ***required*** to register at the National event as a participant from the state in which they **participated**. (If a local or state level YHEC is **NOT** held in a participant's state, he/she may participate in the National YHEC without prior event participation requirements);
 - 2) At least one (1) sponsoring adult from the Local or State YHEC that the individual(s) or team(s) represent.
 - a. *Individuals* may be grouped into squads of not more than seven (7), (with one sponsoring adult per every seven individuals), at the local or state discretion. The sponsoring adult will chaperon and instruct for the duration of the National YHEC Championship. **If individuals are grouped into a squad of seven (7), they are still considered individuals and not eligible to participate for team awards.**
 - b. *Teams* must have five (5) members with at least one (1) registered adult coach per every five (5)-member team. (NOTE: A Registered coach cannot be responsible for more than 7 participants). Members of teams will be eligible for individual achievement-level awards. **Special Notification:** Grouping of high-scoring individuals into teams after local or state programs with the sole purpose of creating All-Star Teams is strongly discouraged.

C. *Alternates*: Should a team member be unable to participate in the National Youth Hunter Education Challenge after registration has been received and processed by the event staff, a replacement of the individual designated must be submitted by the team by Saturday July 11, 2026 and approved by the National YHEC Coordinator.

D. Any changes to 5-person team composition must be made by Saturday July 11, 2026.

E. Participants are required to provide copies of the following items by Saturday July 4, 2026 to the National Youth Hunter Education Challenge office.

- 1) **Competitor and Coach Registration Form.**
- 2) **Hunter Education Card or an NRA online Hunter Education Course Certificate.**
- 3) **Birth Certificate- Not required If the State H.E. Card has the DOB Printed on it.**
- 4) **Release signed by individual and/or parent/guardian.**

F. Registered participants are encouraged to participate in ***all*** events of the NRA National Youth Hunter Education Challenge Championship (shooting events - archery, muzzleloader, rifle and shotgun, and responsibility events - hunter responsibility exam, hunter safety trail, orienteering and wildlife identification), exception for new, younger competitors who may choose to compete in as few as one shooting and one non shooting event.

G. **To provide for a safe and efficient operation of the YHEC National Championship, each registered team(s) or group of five (or less) individuals will need to provide a minimum of 2 Volunteers for each team/group of individuals. Lodging and meals will be provided for Volunteers. See Volunteer Registration for details.**

Registration Options

At the Local and State Event Director's discretion, states may exercise either of the following registration options.

Option 1-Register a participant as an individual only. Scores from registered individuals will be compiled resulting in "individual aggregate scores."

Option 2-Register a participant as a team member. (Team affiliation to be established at the local and state level). Affiliation will be detailed where appropriate on required YHEC registration forms (ex. - Participant Name: John Preston - Junior Division - Affiliated Team: Seneca Valley Ramrods). **To employ this option, a state must send complete five member teams per division to YHEC.** Scores from registered team members will be compiled resulting in "team aggregate scores."

Option 3-Register as a Coach. Coaches will participate as individuals only. Scores will be compiled resulting in individual coach aggregate scores. ***Registered Coaches must pay required event registration fees. Only Coaches participating in the event will be allowed inside the competition zone.***

SPECIAL NOTIFICATION: Individuals not officially registered as participants/participating coaches at the National YHEC Championship, are strictly prohibited from going through the eight scored/scheduled venues. Non-participating competitors and coaches must stay in the spectator area and cannot enter the competition area.

National YHEC Divisions

PLEASE NOTE: The National YHEC Age Division determinate date has changed. To simplify the determining date for junior and senior age divisions, especially those youth that change from ages 14 to ages 15, or turn 19 thru out the year, National YHEC will now use January 1 of each year as the determining date for age divisions. Local and State YHEC sponsors are encouraged to use the youth division (junior/senior) guidelines as established above.

The NRA National Youth Hunter Education Challenge Championship will use the following Divisions:

- A. **Junior Division-** (14 years of age and under as of January 1, 2026)
- B. **Senior Division-** (15 through 18 years of age as of January 1, 2026)
- C. **Coach Division-** Participating coaches may also compete. Time limitations may restrict events that Coaches can compete in. Coaches must travel through scheduled events with their registered participant(s)/teams. Non-Participating Coaches will not be allowed on the course.

Regulations and Code of Conduct

Program Regulations

- A. Safety will be the first and foremost consideration during all YHEC activities.
- B. Participants and spectators assume all risk of personal injury or property damage as noted on the required release form accompanying registration materials.
- C. Participants violating any safety rule as established within these program rules and regulations will be given one warning and face disqualification from further participation should a second infraction occur. If the safety violation is severe, the participant may not be given a warning.
- D. Participants are to provide and use their own firearms, bows and arrows, compasses, GPS devices, and other equipment. Sharing of firearms, bows and related equipment is highly discouraged.
- E. Participants can provide their own ammunition. Only factory manufactured ammo in original container that meets event requirements and specifications for the rifle, shotgun, pistol and muzzleloader events can be used.
- E. Individuals may not participate for one another in any activity.
- G. Participants are expected to exhibit behavior above reproach at all times.

NRA Code of Conduct

These Code of Conduct Rules and Regulations govern the conduct for all attendees at the NRA National Youth Hunter Education Challenge including staff, participants, coaches, volunteers, spectators, etc. These rules, regulations, and conduct codes are to be always adhered to by all attendees at all times during the NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge. NOTICE: All participants, coaches, volunteers, and parents/guardians of minor **participants** must sign a release regarding program regulations and code of conduct

It is understood that each participant will:

1. Always follow NRA's rules of firearms safety.
2. Participate fully in all activities.
3. Know and follow all local, state, and federal laws.
4. Know and follow all rules pertaining to the event(s) in which you are participating.
5. Respect others and their property at all times.
6. Exhibit high moral and ethical standards.
7. Notify administration when situations occur that require attention.
8. Always dress in appropriate attire. Recognizing publicity attracted by the NRA and its programs, it is important to promote a positive image for the hunting and shooting sports. Clothing worn during the YHEC should be tasteful and appropriate for this type of event.

Articles of clothing featuring controversial, questionable, or offensive illustrations, slogans or language are prohibited. NRA officers, Staff, and Event Directors are empowered to take action necessary to maintain acceptable clothing standards.

It is further understood that staff, participants, coaches, volunteers and/or family **members are PROHIBITED from:**

1. Possessing and consuming alcoholic beverages, and/or illegal drugs/narcotic substances or tobacco products during the YHEC program. Use of tobacco products will only be allowed only in special designated smoking areas. At the Muzzleloading event smoking is prohibited throughout the entire venue, even spectator area. Smoking or tobacco products are prohibited inside any building or inside event sites. A smoking/vaping area near the main building will be designated for those uses.
2. Going to, observing, and/or evaluating an event before actual participation.
3. Videotaping, taking still photographs, or written, recorded notes with the intent of showing participants (and/or coaches, non-participants, spectators), event layouts.
4. Communicating, using physical gestures and/or electronic equipment (i.e. walkie talkies, pagers, two-ways, cell phones and cell/camera phones, **Bluetooth devices or other messaging/communications equipment**) with the intent of assisting individuals participating in events. **Bluetooth devices are prohibited by use of all competitors, coaches, and attendees while competing at each event.**
5. Coaching (or attempted coaching) from spectator area(s).

Failure to comply with the NRA Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action up **to and including expulsion from the event and forfeiture of YHEC registration fees.**

Event Rules & Regulations

Rules and Regulations for Shooting Events

A. Hunting Archery Challenge

- 1) Hunting Archery Challenge: Participants will move through a field archery course in a natural setting. The course is designed to simulate shooting situations encountered while bowhunting.
- 2) The Hunting Archery Challenge will be conducted with participants taking shots at targets varying in distance from 5 to 40 yards. Targets will be 3-D game targets with scoring areas directly over the vital areas of the animal. NOTE: A time limit of up to 30 seconds can be applied at each station. Time limits may vary depending on shooting station requirements. Participants will be advised of time limit change upon arrival at shooting station.
- 3) Scoring - Each participant will shoot a total of 20-30 shots depending on the course set up, number of registered competitors, and time frame allotted for the event. The number of targets/shots utilized will determine the points earned for each ring. For Example: If 20 targets/shots are utilized, a hit in the innermost (smallest ring) would be 15 points with hits in outer rings at 10 and 5. The Hunting Archery Challenge will have a maximum possibility of 300 points. All shots breaking or touching the vital area or body will be counted as "hits." Shots touching leg or antler areas will not count as "hits." Challenges must be made on the range before the arrow is pulled. Arrows must stick in the target to score.

Archery and Equipment

Required

- a. Shooters may use only one bow for this activity (exception - bow malfunction).
- b. Sharing of bows, quivers, and arrows is highly discouraged.
- c. All participants will be required to carry arrows in a hip-quiver. Arrows cannot be carried by hand, pocket, bow or back quiver.
- d. Shooters must have at least six arrows before starting the course.

Permitted

- a. Compound, recurve, or long bow will be permitted.
- b. Single stabilizer less than twelve inches measure from back of riser(face).
- c. Kick stands(bow rests) may be used during the course but must be removed before each shot. Kick stands can not be used as a stabilizer.
- c. Bows may be equipped fixed or adjustable hunting-type sights.
- d. Binoculars- (binoculars with built-in ranging devices will not be permitted).

Prohibited

- a. Extended sight bars that measure farther than six inches from the back of riser of bow to front of sight.
- b. Bows sights (fixed or adjustable) cannot have more than six sight pins, sighting points or marks. On adjustable sights, a sight-scale cannot have more than six marking or sight indicators.

- c. More than one stabilizer and stabilizers over twelve inches as measured from the back(face) of the riser.
- d. **Range finders. This includes sight/rangefinders such as "Stadiametric Ranging System".**
- e. Crossbows.
- f. Broadhead hunting tips, Shocker Points, Bludgeon Points
- g. Arrow shafts that do not have target or field points.
- h. Sights that have lens with or without magnification.
- i. Back Quiver, Bow-Mounted Quiver, Pocket Quiver.
- j. Drawing of a bow in any direction other than parallel to the ground.

B. Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge - NOTE: Smoking prohibited on this venue. No **open cans of powder on the firing line or loading bench.**

- 1) Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge: Participants will shoot the muzzleloader course in a natural setting. The course is designed to simulate shooting situations encountered while hunting.
- 2) The Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge will be conducted with participants shooting at Steel Reactive Action targets varying in distance, with scoring areas determined by type of target(s) used. The time limit allocated will be at the discretion of the Event Director.
- 3) Competitors will shoot from distances of 35 to 75 yards in pre-determined positions that depict hunting scenarios. Props may be used as determined by the event director.
- 4) **Scoring** - Participants will shoot a total of 15 shots with each shot worth 20 points. The Hunting Muzzleloading Challenge has the maximum of 300 points total. Distances, shooting position, and stations will be determined by the Event Director.

Muzzleloaders and Equipment

Required

- a. Participants may use only one muzzleloader rifle throughout this activity (***exception*** - muzzleloader malfunction).
- b. Because of time allocated for completion of the event, sharing of the same muzzleloader is highly discouraged at the National YHEC Championship and may not be allowed, if time constraints do not permit.
- c. Participants must load their own gun.

Permitted

- a. Any flintlock, disk, percussion, musket cap or 209-primer type muzzleloading rifles 54 caliber or smaller will be permitted. Only accessories for .45 and .50 caliber muzzleloaders will be provided by YHEC for use during the event. Participants choosing to use another caliber will be required to furnish their own accessories.
- b. Muzzleloaders may have a set trigger, not to be set until ready to fire.

- c. Muzzleloaders may be equipped with sporter type non-adjustable thumbhole stocks. Muzzleloaders may also be equipped with a sling not to exceed 1.5 inches (3.81 centimeters) in width. Sights will be open, peep, hooded or tunnel with only standard front post and bead.
- d. Muzzleloaders may be loaded with single projectile patched balls or pure lead Bullets.
- e. Participants are allowed to use their own accessories, however all accessories must be inspected by event officials prior to participation.
- f. Participants are allowed to use black powder, and black powder substitute such as Triple 7, Clearshot and Pyrodex. YHEC will only provide HogdonTriple 7 in FFg and FFFg.

Prohibited

- a. Breech Loading Rifles-All rifles must be loaded at the muzzle end of barrel.
- b. Shooting mats
- c. Binoculars, monocular, spotting scopes or telescopic sights (optical devices)
- d. Range finders
- e. Open cans and/or dispensers of powder on the line
- f. No more than 60 grains ignition components by volume
- g. Pure lead bullets/balls weighing more than 385 grains
- h. Adjustable competition sling swivels (Slings must be a hunting type sling, connecting at two points-stock and forearm)
- i. Any smokeless or nitro cellulose-based powder
- j. Muzzleloaders larger than .54 caliber
- k. More than one shooting position per shooting sequence
- l. Wooden ramrods-except for indicating loaded/unloaded rifle.
- m. Metal-jacketed bullet sabots
- n. Any sight that has crosshairs. Including peep sights, and partial crosshairs.
- o. No sights with glass or magnification.

4) Shooting Procedures – Only Participants will be allowed on the station or firing line while shooting each station. The Event Director will oversee firing line, loading bench and the participant as required. The participant will shoot his/her quota of rounds and return the gun to the bench. This sequence is repeated for each participant until all have completed the activity. No Fouling shot allowed before loading, only a cap can be fired. Participants will be allowed to clean firearms between shots, time allotted for cleaning will be determined by the Event Director. No disassembly of muzzleloaders for cleaning purposes.

C. Hunting Shotgun Challenge

1) Hunting Shotgun Challenge: Participants will move through a multiple-station Hunter's Clays course. This course is not patterned after conventional skeet and trap shooting but is designed to simulate hunting conditions and situations. The layout will vary depending on the available topography. Shooting stations could make use of available cover to best depict running animals, bird flight and shooting obstacles.

2) The Hunting Shotgun Challenge will be conducted with participants taking shots at a variety of clay targets. Type and size of the clay targets may vary depending on different situations. Single and Double targets may be thrown depending on the station. Double targets may be presented as report, following or true pair.

3) Scoring - Each participant will shoot a total of 20-30 shots. Missed or "lost" targets will be scored as zero points. The Hunting Shotgun Challenge has a maximum possibility of 300 points.

Only legal targets will be scored and the score judge will be sole judge of whether or not a target is broken. Officials may ask assistance from the trap puller or the range official if they feel their assistance is required. The scorers will call "lost" for any target they determine is missed. The participant must make any challenge to the call immediately. The score judge will then make the final decision with assistance from the trap operator and/or the range official.

Rule and/or procedure violations may be referred to event staff and officials for settlement, but legality of targets is the responsibility of the score judge. Only targets with a visible piece broken off will be scored "dead". Dusters, target deflected, or redirected in flight (but with no visible breakage) will be scored "lost". Based on the scorer's judgement, should a target hit an obstruction (i.e. Tree or tree limb) before the participant have ample time to fire (in the scorer's judgement), and fails to do so before the target hits an object near the end of its path breaks, the target will be scored "lost".

Legal Target - whole clay target that is thrown from the trap in a prescribed pattern within the three-second time limit after the participant calls for the target.

Illegal Target - Target broken by the trap or another obstruction. Illegal targets will be re-thrown for the participant, regardless of whether or not the participant fires at the target.

Scoring Pairs

Should the participant break both targets with either the first or second shot, they will both be scored as dead" targets.

In the event of a "no bird" call on the second target of a report pair, the first bird is established per the recorded score, and the shooter will repeat the pair to establish the result of the second target. When repeating the pair, the shooter must make a legitimate attempt at breaking the first target.

In the event of a "no bird" call on true pair or following pair, nothing is established. The Shooter will repeat the pair.

In the event of a "shooter malfunction" on the first target of a report pair, the first target is established as "lost". The shooter will repeat the pair to establish the result of the second target. When repeating the pair, the shooter must make a legitimate attempt at breaking the first target.

Required

- a. Participants may only use one shotgun throughout the activity, (**exception** - gun malfunction)

Permitted

- a. Any shotgun 12 gauge or smaller will be permitted.

- a. Double targets may be thrown in some instances; therefore, the shotgun should be capable of holding two shells. YHEC will furnish 12- and 20- gauge ammunition in low brass target loads (the specific manufacturer and type of loads will be at the discretion of YHEC). Those choosing a gauge other than that detailed above are required to furnish their own factory loaded shells.
SPECIAL NOTE: Shot Shells larger than 1 1/8 oz (31 grams) are prohibited.
- c. Participants can use their own ammunition, if desired. Only factory-loaded target shells with shot size between 7 ½ and 9 (inclusive) will be permitted. It will be the responsibility of the participant/coach to provide this ammunition to the event officials prior to the activity.

Prohibited

- a. Release triggers
- b. Shot size larger than 7 ½ or smaller than 9
- c. **Shot Shells larger than 1 1/8 oz (31 grams) are prohibited.**
- d. Ventilated rib greater than 1/2 inch in height or width
- e. Shotguns 10 gauge or larger
- f. Shotguns without safety or safety has been disabled
- g. Changing of choke tubes once 1st shot is fired.
- h. Reloaded ammunition.

4) Shotgun Shooting Rules

- a. Safety and courtesy are first in gun handling; therefore, all guns will be carried unloaded and with actions open.
- b. Shotguns, shotguns with choke tubes and shotgun barrels are not to be changed during the shotgun activity. Participants may use only one shotgun throughout the activity (exception - shotgun malfunction).
- c. Cheek stocks or butt plates may be adjusted prior to event orientation. No further adjustments will be allowed once competition has begun.

5) Shooting Procedures

Each participant may or may not be allowed to see one legal target from each trap prior to shooting the activity at the station. Only participants will be allowed on the station or firing line while shooting each station. The score judge or range officer will hand shells to the participant as required. The participant will shoot his/her quota of targets and return the gun to the rack. This sequence is repeated for each participant until all have completed the activity.

The sequence for calling for a target to be thrown is:

- a. The participant will say "Trapper ready."
- b. The trapper will acknowledge "Ready".
- c. Upon the trapper's acknowledgement, the participant will say, "Pull."
- d. The trapper will have up to 3 seconds to release the target.

The "ready position" in calling for the target requires the gun to be off the shoulder with the butt plate below the armpit, safety on. The firearm may not be shouldered and safety off until after the target is visible. In other words, in case of a delay pull, the participant cannot call for the target and immediately shoulder the gun. The participant must wait for the target to appear.

6) Malfunctions

- a. The following occurrences will be considered malfunctions and new target(s) will be thrown:
 - i. Ammunition malfunction
 - ii. Trap or trap operator failure
- b. The following malfunctions **will not be** allowed, and targets will be scored "lost":
Participant error:
 - i. Failure to load gun
 - ii. Failure of gun to fire (other than defective ammunition)
 - iii. Failure of gun to reload
 - iv. Failure to select safety to off
- c. Should a gun break through no fault of the participant, another gun may be borrowed and the activity continued. However, if the breakage occurs during the firing at a target, and the target is missed, it will be scored as "lost".

In the case of an ammunition malfunction, the shooter must remain in place, the gun pointing safely down range, and must not open the gun or tamper with the trigger, safety or barrel selector until instructed to do so by the YHEC Volunteer present.

The YHEC Volunteer will determine if the firing pin came in contact with the primer.

If the firing pin did, an ammunition malfunction will be called, and the targets will be re-thrown. A second ammunition malfunction by the same participant will require the Event Director to determine if it is a gun malfunction or true ammunition malfunction.

D. Light Hunting Rifle Challenge

- 1) Light Hunting Rifle Challenge: Participants will move through a walk-through rifle course in a natural setting. The course is designed to simulate shooting situations encountered while hunting.
- 2) The Light Hunting Rifle Challenge will be conducted with participants shooting at steel or similar action targets varying in distance, with scoring areas determined based upon type of target(s) used. Participants will shoot from multiple positions as determined by the Event Director.
- 3) Competitors will shoot from a variety of targets at distances of 30 to 75 yards that depict hunting scenarios. Props may be used as determined by the event director.
- 4) Scoring - Each participant will shoot 30 shots with each shot worth 10 Points. Any shot knocking down or flipping the approved action target will be scored a "hit." Time limit for each shot/shooting station will be determined by Event Director. At each shooting station the range officer will indicate when the time begins. This time period does not include breaks between shooting stations. The Hunting Rifle Challenge has a maximum possibility of 300 points.

Rifles and Equipment

Required

- a. Participants may only use one rifle throughout the activity, (**exception** - gun or scope malfunction).
- b. Participants supplying their own ammunition must have it in the original container or box. Ammunition will be inspected by range officials. YHEC will provide CCI 35 and Federal 711B for participants to use. Only .22 caliber long rifle standard velocity ammo with a velocity between 1,120 and 1,135 is permitted. Sub-sonic, high velocity, hyper velocity, hollow point, or magnum ammo is not permitted.

Permitted

- a. Only standard type .22 caliber rifles designed primarily for hunting will be permitted.
- b. All action types, excluding fully automatic, will be permitted. Rifle including magazine and scope may not exceed eight pounds-eight ounces in weight without a sling and must have a minimum trigger pull of two pounds (907 grams). Trigger weight will be tested after trigger is set on firearm.
- c. Rifles may be equipped with a hunting sling not to exceed 1.5" (3.81 centimeters) in width. Slings must be attached at both ends of the firearm (forearm and butt stock) during the course of fire.
- d. Slings and scopes may be adjusted after the instructions and the order to commence firing at each station. Adjustments must be completed prior to the first shot. After the first shot at each station NO adjustments may be made. The maximum time for each station includes any scope and/or sling adjustments.
- e. Adjustments to the scope include power and/or focus adjustments.
- f. Rifles that are equipped with adjustable stocks (cheek or butt) must be set before the order to commence is given on the first target on the course and cannot be adjusted afterwards.
- g. Rifles may also be equipped with sporter-type thumbhole stocks (non-adjustable).
- h. Sights will be open, peep with standard front post and bead, or hunting scopes, fixed or variable power optics nine power or less.
- i. Shooting sticks permitted on certain shooting stations at the discretion of the event director. Shooting sticks will be provided.

Prohibited

- a. Clothing with added padding, stiffness or shirt cup designed to assist shooter in remaining steady
- b. Shooting mats
- c. Kneeling rolls
- d. Competitive thumbhole stocks
- e. Palm rests or forearm of stocks exceeding 2 1/2 inches wide or 2 1/2 inches deep as measured from the center line of the bore.

- f. Scopes, fixed or variable power optics with capabilities **greater** than nine power **NOTE:** *Taping of scopes will not be allowed.*
- g. Range finders
- h. Spotting scopes
- i. More than one shooting position per shooting sequence
- j. Shooting sticks*, bipods or other similar equipment, except provided by YHEC.
- k. Scopes with internal range finders
- l. Rifle with a weight in excess of 8lbs., 8ozs., without a sling
- m. Reloaded Ammunition
- n. Fouling shot

5) Crossfire(s) -

- a. If a participant's target has been shot more than the rounds fired by that participant, the target has been "cross fired."
 - i. Event Director must determine that the crossfire was unintentionally caused (with no malicious intent) by participants on the firing line. If this is established, the cross-fired target will receive the total score of rounds inside the scoring area (not to exceed the maximum score for that round of shooting). The participant committing a crossfire act will only be scored for the number of rounds inside their actual target's scoring area.
 - ii. Should the Event Director find that cross firing was an intentional act by participants to gain unfair advantage, all parties involved will be immediately disqualified from the event and will subsequently receive "DQ" (amounting to "0") under both individual and team score.

Rules and Regulations for Responsibility Events

E. Hunter Responsibility Exam

1) Hunter Responsibility Exam: Participants will complete a written examination that has 50- 60 objective questions, which may be multiple choice, true or false or fill-in-the-blank.

NOTE: The exam may also be read aloud to accommodate participants with specific learning requirements.

2) The Hunter Responsibility Exam consists of broad-based hunting and conservation information. The following publications will serve as a reference text:

a) NRA's *The Hunter's Guide*. (Ordering information may be obtained by contacting the NRA Outdoor Recreational Programs Department, 703-267-1503.)

b) Iowa Department of Natural Resources. See Iowa DNR website to access all hunting rules and regulations.

c) Any resources that are referenced within the above publications.

3) **Scoring** - Participants will be asked to answer all or as many questions possible in the allotted amount of time. Participants must answer all test questions with no assistance from other participants, written materials or coaches. Students will have up to 60 minutes (one hour) to complete the test. The Hunter Responsibility Exam will consist of 50- 60 questions, with a maximum possibility of 300 points.

Prohibited

- a. Hunter education books
- b. Written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials.
- c. Talking between two or more participants/coaches once exam has started.
- d. Use of cell phones, texting or other forms of communications or communication devices between the participants, coaches or other individuals while taking the exam.

F. Hunter Safety Trail Challenge

1) Hunter Safety Trail Challenge: Participants will walk through a multiple-station, pre-determined trail, designed to simulate actual hunting conditions and situations. Participants will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of hunter safety, hunting skills, and knowledge of hunting regulations for the state of Iowa. NOTE: Participants will receive a facsimile hunting license for the State of Iowa at "Check-in". Participants must sign their hunting license before starting the Hunter Safety Trail. Please refer to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Hunting Regulations website for information on hunting regulations.

- 2) The Hunter Safety Trail Challenge will be conducted with participants moving from station to station with each situation varying greatly. Participants may be tested and scored on the "dos" and "don'ts" of firearms safety and "shoot/don't shoot situations" encountered in a hunting environment. Stations may include, but are not limited to, hunter game situations, target identification, landowner relationships, and safe gun handling afield. **Participants will be required to be knowledgeable of game laws and bag limits for the State of Iowa. See Iowa Department of Natural Resources website.**
- 3) Participants must provide their own shotguns for this event. The shotgun must be a .12 or .20 Gauge capable of shooting two shots when needed. It is recommended to use a pump or over/under-double barrel since blank shotshells will be used to designate a "shoot" scenario. Loaner shotguns will not be available.
- 4) Coaches may or may not be permitted to participate in the Hunter Safety Trail event. If coaches are allowed to participate, they must go through the event last, after their designated team.
- 5) Participants must be able to physically handle and carry a firearm throughout the Hunter Safety Trail event.
- 6) Scoring - Each participant may travel up to 15 stations. Participants may also encounter stations where points are awarded on a sliding scale based on a multiple choice or multi-answer station. *A ten (10) point penalty will be assessed for each occurrence if a participant violates a safety or ethics rule.* The Hunter Safety Trail Challenge has a maximum possibility of 300 points.
- 7) Participants are to carry a "facsimile" **Iowa DNR** Hunting License that will be issued to participants at check-in. Participants must also carry a valid Hunter Education Certification Card.

Safety Penalties: Any participant who receives a safety or ethics infraction on the Hunter Safety Trail will receive a 10 point penalty per infraction. Safety infractions may include but are not limited to, improper muzzle control, finger on the trigger, or unsportsmanlike conduct.

Prohibited

- a. Hunter education books, Hunting regulations guide/material.
- b. Written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials
- c. Use of cell phones, texting or other forms of communications or communication devices between the participants, coaches or other individuals while on the course. **Bluetooth Devices are not allowed on the course.**
- d. No phones, cameras or video equipment are allowed at this event.
- e. Discussing or coaching others about the Hunter Safety Trail event prior to all participants completing the event. Coaches or participants witnessed conversing or coaching regarding the Hunter Safety Trail event may result in a no-score by the participants or coaches involved for the event.
- f. Scouting or previewing the course by any competitor, coach or attendee.

G. Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge

1) Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge: Participants will be required to demonstrate their knowledge of outdoor skills by completing a written test and accomplishing field compass and mapping skills at pre-determined outdoor stations. A participant may request to have the written test read to them.

2) The Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge will be conducted with participants taking field bearings with their compass and also using their compasses/electronic devices for mapping. Participants may also be asked to close a triangle, identify map symbols, or define words (i.e. contour lines, scale, or declination). Participants may be required to demonstrate the ability to navigate around obstacles/barriers intersecting their line of travel and locate a point on the field using a map and coordinates. Mapping and field work may be in metric or imperial units.

Note: All compass calibration & pacing checks must be completed at the Practice Area before entering the Orienteering Event.

Note: Participating coaches may or may not be allowed to participate in the event. If allowed the coach must travel through course after their teams or individuals have completed the course.

Participants will have 50 minutes to complete the written test and 50 minutes to complete the field course.

3) GPS Challenge: Participants will be required to locate a marker(s) on the field using only a handheld GPS enabled device. If using an app on a smart phone, participants will not be allowed to communicate with anyone via the smart phone during the event. Doing so will be grounds for disqualification. The hunting app company OnX Maps will once again provide a free 3- month subscription to YHEC members, details to follow.

4) Scoring - Participants will be asked to demonstrate Compass/GPS skills and complete written, map and field questions. The Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge has a maximum possibility of 300 points. Compasses/Electronic Devices, including GPS Devices may be used on the Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge course, as directed by the Event Director.

5) The information for this event has been taken from NRA's *The Hunter's Guide* (see Section V, E. 2 for ordering information), the U.S. Department of the Interior - U.S. Geological Survey *Topographic Map Symbols* publication - ISBN 0-607- 94962-3 (Contact 1-888-275-8747 for ordering information), *The Backcountry Classroom* by Jack Drury and Bruce F. Bonney, *Compass and Map Navigator Book - The Complete Guide to Staying Found* by Michael Hodgson. (These Nexus publications as well as other orienteering resource materials, may be purchased through The Brunton Co., 620 East Monroe Avenue, Riverton, WY 82501 - 800-443-4871), *Be Expert With Map And Compass – The Complete Orienteering Handbook* by Bjorn Kjellstrom. Wilderness Navigation 3rd. By Bob Burns and Mike Burns. *Essential Wilderness Navigation* by Craig Caudill and Tracy Trimble. *MapTools.com*. See website for details.

Permitted

- a. Pace Cards
- b. Magnetic Compass
- c. Mapping protractors (Grids, corner rulers, roamers and rulers) for map use.
- d. Non-electronic clicker/tally counter and/or pacing beads.
- e. Electronic equipment including electronic or battery-operated compasses and GPS enabled devices will be allowed for a selected portion of the field course. These Handheld GPS enabled devices, including smart phones to be used **ONLY** for the GPS Challenge of the course.

Prohibited

- a. Calculators, including calculator on cell phone.
- b. Orienteering books
- c. Written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials.
- d. Cell phones, smart watches, **blue tooth** or any such device shall not be used for texting or other forms of communication or communication devices between the participants, coaches or other individuals while on the course.
- e. Tripods or other means of support for compass
- f. Crossing established boundary (marked/orange ribboned) lines.

H. Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge

- 1) Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge: Participants will walk through a multiple station field and/or woodland course in a natural setting. The course is designed to simulate actual wildlife-sign encounters while outdoors.
- 2) The Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge will be conducted with participants observing North American game animal (mammals, birds, reptiles) specimens. Tracks, mounted (game or non-game) animals, or other identifying animal parts/ signs that could be used to readily identify the specimen., and reading and identifying wildlife signs. All specimens can be hunted or trapped somewhere in North America or be specimens of "Protected" or "Endangered" species where protected by state laws. Wildlife will constitute mounted or tanned hides, depending upon availability. Animal tracks may be original, or molds made of prints. Other wildlife signs may be real or reproduced. Participants will be allowed up to 60 seconds per station. Stations may not be revisited.

Reference Material includes: NRA. *The Hunter's Guide*. (2017). Fairfax, Virginia: NRA

Carney, S.M. (1992). Species, Age and Sex Identification of Ducks Using Wing Plumage. Washington, DC: USFWS. Available at <http://www4.ncsu.edu/~csdepem/documents/WaterfowlWings.pdf>

Elbroch, M. (2006). Animal Skulls: A Guide to North American Specie. Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania: Stackpole Books

Hines, B. (2006). Ducks at a Distance: A Waterfowl Identification Guide. Available at <http://www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/Ducks%20at%20a%20Distance-OCR.pdf>

Rezendes, P. (1999). Tracking & the Art of Seeing: How to Read Animal Tracks and Sign. (2nd edition). New York: HarperCollins

Lowery, James (2013). Tracker's Field Guide: A Comprehensive Manual for Animal Tracking (Falcon Guides: Field Guides)

Reid, Fiona (2006). – Petersen Field Guide to Mammals of North America: Fourth Edition (Petersen Field Guides)

Sibley, David A. (2014). The Sibley Guide to Birds, 2nd Edition (Also Eastern and Western North America Editions)

State Fish & Wildlife Agency Websites/Publications-Iowa. – Go online to Iowa Department of Natural Resources website for Hunting Rules and Regulations and other pertinent information.

NOTE: Participating coaches may or may not be allowed to travel through course, and only **after** their teams or individuals have gone through.

3) Scoring - Participants may be asked to identify 30 specimens by use of mounts, hides, skulls, tracks, scat or other related wildlife signs. The Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge has a maximum possibility of 300 points.

Prohibited

- a. Wildlife identification books
- b. Written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials.
- c. Electronic equipment
Use of cell phones, texting or other forms of communications or communication devices between the participants, coaches, or other individuals while on the course.

Scoring Criteria for YHEC Events

Correctly answering a predetermined number of questions, making a certain number of hits in a prescribed target area, or correctly completing a prescribed activity accumulate event points. The maximum possible points for each event is 300.

Please Note: With possible time constraints due to participation this year, events may have reduced shots, stations, questions, etc. The maximum possible points at each event may also be reduced to accommodate the reduced events.

Whenever possible, Local and State sponsors are encouraged to use the scoring criteria as established for National YHEC.

All Local and State YHEC programs utilizing rules and regulations contained in this manual will provide eligibility for their participants to take part in the National YHEC Championship.

Tie Breaking Criteria for YHEC Events

Scoring ties for all individuals/teams per event, and overall will be broken. The following tie breaking criteria will be used in the YHEC program:

In the event of a tie, the individual/team with the highest level of achievement in the Hunter Responsibility Exam will be declared the winner(s). If a tie remains, the individual/team with the highest level of achievement on the Hunter Safety Trail Challenge will be declared the winner(s). Should a tie remain, the individual/team with the highest combined level of achievement in the four (4) responsibility events (Hunter Responsibility Exam, Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge, Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge, Hunter Safety Trail Challenge), will be declared the winner(s). The final tiebreaker will be based on a combined score of the four (4) shooting events (Hunting Shotgun Challenge, the Light Hunting Rifle Challenge, Hunting Archery Challenge, and the Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge).

Should individuals/teams tie in the Hunter Responsibility Exam, the tie breaking formula will start at the second criteria (Hunter Safety Trail Challenge).

All Local, State sponsors are urged to use the tie breaking criteria as established above.

Challenges During YHEC Events

Challenges concerning the value of shots as scored must be made immediately by the participant and will be resolved at each event. When shot value scores cannot be determined between the participant and the volunteer scoring judge, the Event Director will make the final determination. Only participants may challenge, and all challenges must be made during the challenge period. (The challenge period is immediately before the next participant comes to the station or firing line or as outlined in the specific event regulations.)

Protests During YHEC Events

Protests are to be brought to the attention of the Event Director. If the individual receives no satisfaction, a written protest may then be submitted to the YHEC National Director within two hours of the protest, for review, consideration, and final decision. A YHEC Protest Committee may be convened to review the protest. The committee will be comprised at the NRA YHEC Director's discretion to determine the written protest.

For YHEC Shooting Events Only! If the participants protest is approved, the participant has the option of reshooting the entire event course or taking the score that they have already received. The participant must notify the NRA YHEC Program Director of their decision immediately, upon notification of the protest decision.

Alibis During YHEC Events

Only range, trap, target, or ammunition malfunction will constitute an alibi. Alibis will not be allowed for firearm, arrow or bow malfunctions. In the event of a firearm or bow malfunction, participants may borrow a firearm or bow and continue the relay. No practice or sighting-in will be allowed for borrowed firearms once the NRA National Youth Hunter Education Challenge activities have begun.

(All Local and State YHEC sponsors are encouraged to follow alibi criteria as established above.)

YHEC Event Dates

For 2026, The National Youth Hunter Education Challenge Championship will be held July 20-25. See ADDENDUM D for a copy of the Tentative Schedule of Events. Final Schedule of Events will be provided at YHEC Check-In.

For 2027, The Location and Date of The National Youth Hunter Education Challenge Championship to be determined and announced at the National YHEC Championship.

Entries and Cancellations for YHEC Participants

For Local or State level participants to become eligible to participate at the National YHEC Championship, the enclosed YHEC Registration Form, Releases, and Hunter Education Card must be submitted to National YHEC Championship Coordinator by July 4, 2026.

Substitutions and changes to Teams will be allowed up till Saturday July 11, 2026.

Cancellations with Refunds will be allowed up till Saturday July 11, 2026.

YHEC Participant Accommodations, Meals, and Travel

Any and all accommodations, meals, and travel-related expenses incurred while participating in the National YHEC will be the sole responsibility of participants/coaches. YHEC will be providing visitor information and lodging discounts where applicable. See ADDENDUM C for details. Volunteers will be provided lodging and meals. See Volunteer Registration for details

Interstate Transportation of Personally Owned Firearms

Federal law does not restrict an individual (except convicted felons, persons under indictment for felonies, mental defectives or incompetents, illegal users of controlled drugs, illegal aliens, veterans dishonorably discharged, those who have renounced their U.S. citizenship, and fugitives from justice) from transporting firearms across state lines. Thus, there is no federal interstate transportation permit for firearms.

EXCEPTION: YOUTH HANDGUN SAFETY LAW-See Attachment.

Parents/Guardians traveling with youth that have pistols to be used in the Hunting Pistol Challenge should fill out the form under ADDENDUM B. This form must travel with the youth and pistol. Please do not mail this form to YHEC, as we do not need this form.

Many states have laws governing the transportation of firearms. In addition, many cities and localities have ordinances restricting transportation of firearms. Travelers must be aware of these laws and comply with the legal requirements in each jurisdiction. Additional details on transporting firearms may be found in the NRA publication *Guide to the Interstate Transportation of Firearms* now available for download at. <https://www.nraila.org/articles/20150101/guide-to-the-interstate-transp>

Transportation

Firearms Aboard Aircraft

URGENT NOTICE: Federal law prohibits the carrying of any firearms, concealed or unconcealed on or about the person or in carry-on baggage while aboard an aircraft. **Contact Your Relevant Airline Carrier Prior To Your Departure To Obtain Up-To-The-Minute Regulations Regarding The Transport of Firearms.** For additional information regarding airline transportation of firearms, visit: <https://www.nraila.org/articles/20150101/guide-to-the-interstate-transportation>

Firearms Aboard Other Carriers

Any passenger who owns or legally possesses a firearm being transported aboard any common or contract carrier for movement with the passenger in interstate or foreign commerce, must deliver the unloaded firearm into the custody of the pilot, captain, conductor, or operator of such common or contract carrier for the duration of the trip. Check with each carrier before your trip to avoid problems or delays.

- A. Bus companies usually refuse to transport firearms.
- B. Trains usually allow the transportation of encased long guns if they are disassembled, or the bolt is removed. Please contact your local rail carrier of AMTRAK for current regulations.

Local and State Sponsor Requirements for Participant Eligibility in YHEC

In addition to following the rules and regulations set forth in this guide, Local and State level sponsors must meet established administrative criteria to ensure eligibility for their participants to participate in the current year's YHEC program.

The Local or State Sponsor must:

- A. Apply for official NRA YHEC sponsorship approval or have event(s) recognized as YHEC qualifying events by NRA Headquarters. Sponsorship forms must be received by the NRA Hunter Services Department by established deadline dates.

Local Or State Sponsor must submit form "Request to Sponsor a YHEC Program". Form is located on the NRA/YHEC website.

- B. Promote and conduct a Local or State level YHEC program.

- C. Adhere to the NRA YHEC established line of communication.

- D. Properly complete and submit **all** required paperwork by established guidelines
- In addition to documents detailed above, these documents include, but may not be limited to:
- Local/State Registration Form
 - Participant Aggregate Scores (Final Results Bulletin)
 - Participant Address List
 - Coach Address List

National Rifle Association

The National Rifle Association of America was founded in New York in 1871 "for the improvement of its members in marksmanship." From this modest beginning, the NRA has evolved into a nationwide, nonprofit organization with a membership in the millions.

Today, the NRA is a nationwide educational, recreational, and public service organization dedicated to the rights of responsible citizens to own and use firearms for recreation and defense.

The NRA is a nonprofit corporation supported entirely by its membership and affiliated clubs. It is not affiliated with any arms or ammunition manufacturers or with any commercial firearm businesses and receives no appropriations from Congress. The NRA cooperates with all branches of the U.S. armed forces, federal agencies, and state and local governments interested in teaching firearm marksmanship, safety, and hunting skills to all interested persons.

The NRA has long recognized the importance of hunters in its fight to protect our right to keep and bear arms. Because hunters comprise a vast segment of the gun-owning public, the image they project reflects on all gun owners. The NRA has worked to promote safe and responsible conduct by hunters in the field since its beginning more than a century ago.

The NRA believes that well-managed hunting is a beneficial use of renewable wildlife resources, which, when left to nature, are lost to predation, disease, starvation, or old age. Proper hunting is in complete accord with the moral tenets and historical facts of human existence. The hunting heritage predates recorded history by many centuries. The hunter's participation in the chase today is a healthy exercise, both physically and spiritually.

The hunter's interest in wildlife has been the principal factor in fostering sound management and conservation practices. The commitment of hunters and the funds they provide through special taxes and licenses safeguards the future of all wildlife species.

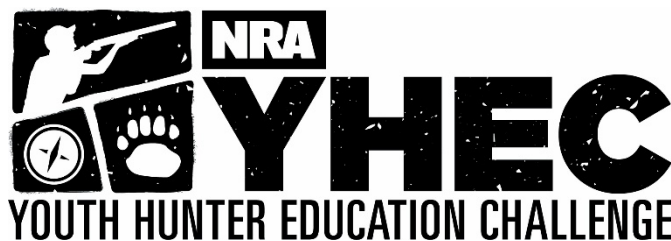
Hunting is dominant among American traditions and has contributed substantially to our strong national character. Its future is a primary concern of the National Rifle Association.

To join NRA today, or for additional information regarding membership, please call 1-800-368-5714.

NOTE: The NRA reserves the right to make modifications in this NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge Rules and Regulations manual as they may pertain to the NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge. These changes may occur to accommodate shooting range facilities, schedules, manpower limitations, safety, promotional needs or other requirements, as NRA deems necessary. The NRA will make every effort to notify the Local or State program director in the event of significant changes in this publication.

REGISTRATION

2026 NATIONAL YHEC



July 20-25, 2026

Participant/Participant Coach/Non-Participant Coach Registration

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Age _____ Date of Birth _____
Phone number _____
Email _____

Please Check appropriate boxes:

____ Junior ____ Senior ____ Participant Coach ____ Non-Participant Coach
____ Team Member ____ Individual

State: _____

Team Name _____ Head

Coach _____

Emergency Contact _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____

Shirt Size (Please circle one) Small Medium Large X Large 2X 3X

Please include the following with your registration form:

1. Release, Waiver, and Code of Conduct Form
2. Copy of participant's Hunter Safety Card
3. Proof of Age (Birth Certificate, State Issued ID, Driver's License), **if not printed on HE Card.**
4. Registration fee of \$300.00 per participant/Coach Participant. Registration fee of \$150.00 per Non-Participant Coach

Registration deadline is July 4, 2026. If you are mailing your registration forms and/or registration fee, please note it must be mailed and postmarked to arrive at the **NATIONAL YHEC address below by July 4, 2026.** It is recommended that you email all forms and pay by CC. **All Registration Forms and Fees for a Team(s), including Coaches must be collected by the Team's Leader and presented at one time.**

Please email or send all forms and fee to:

NATIONAL YHEC CHAMPIONSHIP

C/O Gary Jobe

jobepack@hotmail.com

2205 CR 3558

Sulphur Bluff, TX 75481

Checks made payable to YHEC

*For credit card, please call Tina Jobe @479-644-9442 (4% fee added for credit card payment)

VOLUNTEER WITH LODGING FORM

Name of Volunteer _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Shirt Size (Please circle one) Small Medium Large X Large 2X 3X

Thank you for Volunteering for the 2026 National Youth Hunter Education Challenge. Please fill out the enclosed Registration Form and Release. Registration deadline for Volunteers is June 20, 2026. Check in for volunteers will start on Sunday July 19, 2026. Volunteers will report to their assigned event to assist with set-up and safety briefing. YHEC Competition Starts Tuesday Morning July 21, 2026, and goes thru Saturday July 25, 2026. (Saturday will only be used for competition if weather does not allow for completion of events by Friday). Awards and Closing ceremonies are planned for Saturday July 25, 2026. Volunteers need to work each day of set up and competition from July 19 thru 25. Volunteers will receive a special YHEC Welcome Bag. Volunteer Confirmations will be sent Wednesday, July 1, 2026.

VOLUNTEERS WITH RVS PLEASE SEE INFORMATION UNDER ADDENDUM C "VOLUNTEERS WITH RV'S"

Meals for Volunteers: Breakfast will be provided at hotel for those staying at hotel.

Lunch and Dinner will be provided for Volunteers at event site beginning Sunday, July 19 thru Friday, July 26.

Lodging/Volunteers: Lodging is based on Double Occupancy, sharing a double queen room.

Lodging location: Comfort Suites, 2111 S. W. Walton Blvd., Bentonville, AR., 72712

Lodging will begin: Sunday July 19 and go thru Friday July 24. (Checkout Sat. morning 7/25)

PLEASE NOTE: Volunteers coming in prior to Sunday July 19 or staying after Friday July 25 will need to make their own reservations by contacting the TBD. YHEC will not be responsible for those dates, however, Comfort Suites will have a special rate for you.

To assist Volunteers with families, YHEC will be providing the following Lodging/M meal accommodations. Rooms are based on Double Occupancy-1 King or 2 Queen Bed.

- 1) If two Volunteers share a room (2 Queen Bed) the Volunteers can have up to 2 youth family members, under the age of 18 staying in the room with no extra charge. Those youth will also be provided dinner with the Volunteers at no additional charge.
- 2) If a Volunteer shares a room with a Non-Volunteer, the Non-Volunteer will be charged 50% of the room charge, which will be approximately \$50.00 per night. The Volunteer and one family-member youth will be provided dinner. The Non-Volunteer and additional family member/youth can purchase dinner at \$5.00 per person/meal. Lunch will be provided for Volunteers, but lunch is **not** provided for any youth (competing or not competing) or for non-Volunteers, however, food service vendor will be available for food purchases.

Rooms are based on Double Occupancy. Please indicate your choice of roommate.

Name of Roommate _____ Is this person a Volunteer _____ (yes or no)

Names of youth(s) in room 1) _____ 2) _____

DATE OF ARRIVAL _____

- **VOLUNTEERS PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE HOTEL FOR YOUR YHEC RESERVATIONS. NATIONAL YHEC WILL MAKE YOUR RERSERVATIONS UPON RECEIPT OF YOUR VOLUNTEER LODGING FORM.**

Event Preferences: Please check the group you would like to volunteer with. Every opportunity will be made to insure you work with your preferred group; however, this does not guarantee your assignment based on staffing needs.

____ Any

____ Team A- Rifle, Muzzleloader, Pistol,

____ Team B- Shotgun, Archery, Safety Trail

____ Team C- C/O, WID, Exam

____ Team D-Special Services-Water, Meal/Food, Housekeeping, Sales-(Circle choices)

Please return completed FORM and RELEASE by June 20, 2026 to:

NATIONAL YHEC CHAMPIONSHIP

Gary Jobe

Email: jobepack@hotmail.com

2205 CR 3558

Additional Information: 713-253-7914

Sulphur Bluff, TX 75481

VOLUNTEER WITH NON- LODGING FORM

Thank you for Volunteering for the 2026 NATIONAL Youth Hunter Education Challenge. Please fill out the enclosed Registration Form and Release. Volunteer Registration Forms are due June 20, 2026. Check in for volunteers will be Sunday July 19 starting at 9am. Volunteers will report to their assigned event to assist with set-up and safety briefing. YHEC Competition Starts Tuesday Morning July 21, 2026, and goes thru Saturday July 25, 2026. (Saturday will only be used for competition if weather does not allow for completion of events on Friday). Awards and Closing ceremonies are planned for Saturday July 25, 2026. Volunteers are requested to work each day of set up and competition from July 19 thru 25. For Local Volunteers, those not requiring housing: Lunch and Dinner will be provided beginning Sunday, July 19 thru Friday, July 24. Each volunteer will receive a YHEC Welcome Bag. Volunteer Confirmation will be sent July 1, 2026

YHEC will provide dinner for each Volunteer and one family member. However other immediate family members/youth can purchase dinner at \$5.00 per person/meal. Lunch will be provided for the Volunteer, but lunch will not be provided for any youth (competing or not competing) or for non-Volunteer, however food service vendor will be available to purchase lunch.

Name of Volunteer _____ Phone _____
Email _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____
Zip _____

Shirt Size (Please circle one) Small Medium Large X Large 2X 3X

Event Preferences:

Please list the 3 events you would like to assist in by order of preference. (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc) However, this does not guarantee your assignment to that event, based on staffing needs.

____ Any
____ Team A- Rifle, Muzzleloader, Pistol,
____ Team B- Shotgun, Archery, Safety Trail
____ Team C- C/O, WID, Exam
____ Special Services-Water, Meal/Food, Housekeeping, Sales-(Circle choices)

**Please return completed FORM and RELEASE by June 20, 2026 to:
NATIONAL YHEC CHAMPIONSHIP**

Gary Jobe Email: jobepack@hotmail.com
2205 CR 3558 Additional Information: 713-253-7914
Sulphur Bluff, TX 75481

RELEASE, WAIVER, INDEMNIFICATION, CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARTICIPANT, COACH, AND VOLUNTEER

In consideration for participation at the NRA YHEC Championship, which will be held in Benton County, Bentonville, Arkansas on July 19-25, 2026, the undersigned Participant, Coach, Volunteer and/or the undersigned parent or legal guardian of the Participant, if applicable (individually and collectively, the "Undersigned"), agree as follows:

- I. The Undersigned, on behalf of him/herself and/or the minor child, if applicable, expressly assumes the risk of participating in or attending the NRA NATIONAL YHEC CHAMPIONSHIP which may include but is not limited to hunting-related and other outdoor activities and the discharge of firearms and the firing of live ammunition.
- II. Parents or guardians of youth that are participating in The Hunting Pistol Challenge, your signature below indicates you are aware of, and in compliance with the BATF "Youth handgun Safety Act Notice" pertaining to the use and possession of a handgun by someone under the age of 18. In addition to your signature on this release **you will need to fill out the enclosed form that should travel with the below named youth and handgun.**
- III. The Undersigned, on behalf of him/herself and/or the minor child, if applicable, agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless, the Youth Hunter Education Challenge and its Directors, the Sponsors and Supporters of the Youth Hunter Education Challenge, the National Rifle Association of America ("NRA") and any employee, director, officer, contractor, or agent of Sponsor or NRA, Benton Quail Association, and all YHEC coaches, instructors, and similar individuals, whether or not such individuals acted or are acting in a voluntary capacity (individually and collectively, the "Indemnified Parties") from and against any and all fault, liabilities, costs, expenses, claims, demands, lawsuits, or any other actions or expenses whatsoever arising out of or related to YHEC or any act or omission of the Undersigned. The Undersigned, on behalf of him/herself and/or the minor child, if applicable, hereby releases and waives all claims of any kind against the Indemnified Parties arising out of or related to YHEC or any act or omission of the Undersigned. This instrument binds the Undersigned and/or the minor child and the executors, administrators, assignees, and heirs thereof.
- IV. The Undersigned hereby irrevocably consents to and authorize the use, publication, and reproduction at any time by the YHEC, the NRA, and their assigns, of any and all photographs, video, or electronic images, with or without audio, taken of the Undersigned, with or without names, for any use, including composite or distorted representations, promotion, advertising, or any other purpose whatsoever, and the Undersigned hereby waives any claim or right arising out of such use, publication, or reproduction, including but not limited to any right of privacy. This instrument binds the Undersigned and/or the minor child, and executors, administrators, assignees, and heirs thereof.
- V. This Agreement and any disputes arising under this Agreement shall be governed by and construed under the laws of the State of Arkansas, or, if applicable, federal law. The Undersigned agree that all legal proceedings relating to the subject matter of this Agreement shall be maintained exclusively in courts sitting within the County of Benton or the City of Bentonville, in the State of Arkansas. The Undersigned hereby consent to and subject themselves to the personal jurisdiction of such courts and agree that jurisdiction and venue for any proceeding arising hereunder shall lie exclusively with such courts.
- VI. The above representations, covenants, and warranties I make on behalf of myself, and, if applicable, the minor child, and any and all guardians and parents of the minor child.
- VII. I have read the "NRA Code of Conduct". I understand the rules and codes and agree to follow and adhere to those regulations and codes set forth In the 2026 YOUTH HUNTER EDUCATION CHALLENGE REGULATIONS GUIDE.

IT IS AGREED:

PARTICIPANT/COACH/VOLUNTEER
PARTICIPANT:

PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF THE

(Print Name of Participant, Coach, or Volunteer)

(Print name of Parent/Guardian of Participant)

(Signature of Participant, Coach, or Volunteer)

(Signature of Parent/Guardian of Participant)

ADDENDUM A:

Hunting Pistol Challenge-The event will be open to Junior, Senior, and Coach competitors. Awards will be presented to the top Individuals; however, the pistol scores will not be included in the “Overall YHEC” SCORE.

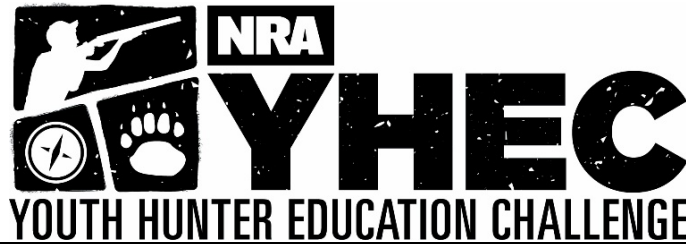
1. Competitors will use their own pistols which will need to conform to regulations listed below. Pistols will be available for those without a pistol.
2. The Hunting Pistol Challenge will be conducted with participants taking shots at knock-down steel silhouette style targets. Distances of targets will be as follows: Short Range- 15 to 20 yards. Medium Range-20 to 30 yards. Long Range 30 yards +.
3. Participants will shoot from a variety of positions that would be used in hunting. The position used may be determined by distance and size of the target. Only one shooting position per station will be allowed. Event Director will determine positions used.
4. Shooting props and aides may be utilized based on the discretion of Event Director.
5. Pistols and Equipment. Participants will need to provide their own pistol. Only standard type .22 Caliber pistols designed primarily for hunting will be permitted. All action types (except fully automatic) will be allowed. Open sights (post front, notched rear) and “red dot” will be allowed this year. Only .22 standard velocity long rifle ammunition will be utilized and will be provided by Event Director. Pistols cannot exceed 5 lbs. Pistol and equipment will be inspected prior to competition. Olympic Styled Pistols will not be allowed. Event Director will determine if a pistol is considered an Olympic Style Pistol.
6. Scoring – Each participant will shoot a total of up to 30 shots, Event Director will determine amount of time allowed per target. The Hunting Pistol Challenge has a maximum possible score of 300 points.
7. Crossfires are unlikely to occur given the type of targets being used, however, the shooter who cross-fired to the wrong target will have spent a round for no score, and the beneficiary of the crossfire will be scored a hit for that target.
8. MINIMUM PROFICIENCY STANDARDS. Know and understand how to use a .22 pistol and all related equipment. Understands and knows how to load and unload a pistol in a safe manner. Understands safety rules and standards that apply to shooting a pistol, including muzzle control and safety gun handling.

Hunting Pistol Challenge restrictions: The following materials and equipment are prohibited from use during established event activities: Failure to comply will result in expulsion from all events at the National YHEC Competition.

- a. Clothing with added padding, stiffness or shirt cup designed to assist shooter.
- b. Range finders
- c. Spotting scopes
- d. More than one shooting position per shooting sequence
- e. Shooting sticks, bipods, or similar shooting aids unless provided by Event Director.
- f. Pistol with a weight more than 5 lbs., Trigger less than 2 lbs.
- g. Barrell length exceeding 12”.

ADDENDUM B:

2026 NATIONAL YHEC



YOUTH HANDGUN SAFETY ACT NOTICE:

In accordance with the Youth Handgun Safety Act, I grant permission for my child to transport, handle, and discharge a handgun at the National Rifle Association's Youth Hunter Education Challenge. This event will be conducted at Benton County Quail Facility located at 11701 Quail Barn Road (11570 Arkansas Highway 72 West), Bentonville, Arkansas. The event will be held July 20-25, 2026, with travel dates extending from July 19 thru July 30. Handgun must travel unloaded, with no ammunition present, and cased. **This release must accompany the youth and/or handgun, do not mail to National YHEC.**

Youth Competitor Printed Name _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

**DO NOT SEND THIS FORM WITH YOUR
REGISTRATION. IT MUST ACCOMPANY
AND TRAVEL WITH YOUTH AND/OR
HANDGUN**

ADDENDUM C: LODGING

VOLUNTEERS.

SPECIAL NOTE: LODGING FOR VOLUNTEERS WILL BE PROVIDED BY YHEC STARTING ON SUNDAY JULY 19 THRU FRIDAY JULY 24(CHECK OUT SATURDAY JULY 25). PLEASE FILL OUT VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM AND FORWARD BY JUNE 20, 2026. PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE HOTEL FOR RESERVATIONS, NATIONAL YHEC WILL MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS. LODGING FOR VOLUNTEERS WILL BE BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY.

YHEC Volunteers may be reimbursement for part or all your RV reservations, starting Sunday July 19 thru Saturday July 25. Please contact YHEC Director for details.

COMPETITORS, VISITORS AND GUESTS.

NATIONAL YHEC IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH SEVERAL HOTELS IN BENTONVILLE FOR SPECIAL YHEC RATES. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE SEND OUT LATER IN JANUARY

You will find a vast array of lodging choices in the Bentonville/Northwest Arkansas Areas ranging from budget to 5-Star Hotels, Airbnb, Bed and Breakfast, and RV Sites. You will be responsible for contacting, booking, and reserving your choice of lodging.

ADDENDUM D: TENTATIVE YHEC SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Please note this Schedule of Events is a preliminary schedule to help attendees to plan your travel and activities, however actual dates/times/events may change based on YHEC scheduling needs.

DAY/DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday June 1		Registration- Competitors, Coaches, Volunteers Opens
Saturday June 20		Registration Due for Volunteers Due
Saturday July 4		Registration for Competitors/Coaches Due
Saturday July 11		Last date for Team Changes
Saturday July 18	8 AM	Event Directors Meeting
		Key Staff Reports-Initial Range Set Up
	6 PM	Event Directors/Staff Dinner Meeting
Sunday July 19	9 AM	Initial Range Set Up/Volunteer Check in
	1 PM-5 PM	Competitor Check In
Monday July 20	9 AM-4PM	Competitor Check in.
	6:45 PM	Teams line up for Opening Ceremony
	7 PM	Opening Ceremony
	8 PM	Coaches Meeting
	10 PM	Building/Facility Closes for night
Tuesday July 21	7:00 AM	Competitions Begin-See Event Schedule
	10 AM-7PM	Sales Open
	6:30 PM	Special Events-Archery Flu Flu
	6:30 PM	Youth Raffle ends/Tickets drawn
	7:00 PM	Ducks Unlimited YHEC Duck Calling Championship-TBD
	10:00 PM	Building and Facility Closes for Night.
Wednesday July 22	7:00 AM	Competitions Begin-See Event Schedule
	10 AM-7PM	Sales Open
	6:30 PM	Special Events-Flu Flu, Shot Gun Flurry, Trade Night, TBA
	10 PM	Building and Facility Closes for Night.
Thursday July 23	7:00 AM	Competitors Begin-See Event Schedule
	10AM-7PM	Sales Open
	6:30 PM	Special Events- Shot Gun Flurry, Trade Night, TBA
	10 PM	Building and Facility Closes for Night.
Friday July 24	7:00 AM	Competitors Begin-See Event Schedule
	6 PM	Awards Dinner Night-(Cajun/Catfish/Pulled Pork Dinner)
	7 PM	Special Events-DJ Dance
	10 PM	Building and Facility Closes for Night.
Saturday July 25	8AM-9AM	Sales open Last call for Merchandise
	9:00AM	Awards Program
	11:30 AM	Final Event Break Down/Load

ADDENDUM E: COMPASS AND ORIENTEERING

The Compass and Orienteering Challenge has made some major advancements in teaching and training our young competitors (and coaches) on modern techniques in navigation, including “Electronic or GPS Style” navigation. For 2026 a part of the field course and written course will include the use of these techniques and the use of Electronic or GPS devices.

The following items are being made available to the Competitors, Coaches, and Team Leaders to help and assist in the teaching and use of these concepts. Please feel free to download, copy, distribute and use these teaching guides.

1) Coach Training Guide. Compiled by Compass and Orienteering Event Director Jeff Nicholas, this is a very easy to use, but detailed guide for coaches and competitors to learn the essentials of navigation. Due to its length, you will need to open the attachment “COACH TRAINING GUIDE” which is included with the 2026 YHEC National Rules.

2) Saline County Shooting Sports Compass and Orienteering by Scott Yakoubian, C & O Instructor for Saline County Shooting Sports. Click or copy and paste this link to open Scott’s website for valuable training tips and insight.

<https://salinecountyss.wixsite.com/scss-compass>

3) OnX Hunt app. Once again the great folks at OnX is providing YHEC participants and friends a free 3-month trial subscription to their “Elite Level Membership”. The Elite Level Membership is a top-tier format that allows you to view all 50 United States plus Canada. This means you can use the app to train in your home area at home yet access the mapping area that we will assign at National YHEC. Please click or copy and paste the below link to sign up for your FREE 3-month trial use, effective May 1, 2026.

<https://www.onxmaps.com/hunt/r/yhece3>

ADDENDUM F: Tentative-TBD and Announced Later **Ducks Unlimited YHEC Duck Calling Championship**

The Youth Hunter Education Challenge is very exciting to announce that we will feature A special YHEC Duck Calling Championship sponsored by Ducks Unlimited. The Championship will be held Tuesday Night July 21st starting at 7 P.M. Contestants should pre-register by filling out the DU/YHEC Registration Form and sending in with your YHEC Registration. 1st 50 registrations will receive a special duck call provided by Ducks Unlimited. Over \$3,000 in door prizes and awards will be presented.



YHEC DUCK CALLING CHAMPIONSHIP

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!!! The YHEC/DU Duck Calling Championship is back again! Great Door Prizes and Awards! Competition is limited to 50 contestants, preregister now to reserve your spot.

RULES:

- 1) Contest will be held Tuesday Night **July 21st**, starting at 7:00 pm in the BCQ Main Building
- 2) Competition limited to 50 contestants. Pre-register now to reserve your spot.
- 3) No registration fee. Fill out and return the register form with your National YHEC registration forms.
- 4) Open to YHEC youth competitors only.
- 5) Contests will be judged on the ability to simulate the hail or greeting call, comeback call, feed call and lonesome hen call, in a hunting style sequence.
- 6) Judges will be provided by the local Ducks Unlimited Organization of Northwest Arkansas
- 7) Caller will be given an opportunity to do a warm up.
- 6) After the warm up, the announcer will simply say "Score" and caller may begin. Caller will have 90 seconds to complete the call sequence. A ten second left warning light will display for the contestant.
- 7) Judges will determine scores of each caller, and cuts will be announced prior to the next round. Based on the number of competitors, there will be multiple "cuts" and additional rounds until the top five winners are declared.
- 8) Decisions of the Judges are final.
- 9) Hourly door prizes will be awarded for all attendees including contestants and spectators.

DOOR PRIZES INCLUDE: **TENTATIVE**

1st place \$250 and a Turtlebox Speaker
2nd place \$200 and a DU Vintage logo Cooler
3rd place \$150 and a DU Chene Bag
4th place \$100
5th place \$50

***FREE DU/YHEC DUCK CALL TO THE FIRST
50 ENTRIES!!! REGISTER TODAY!!!***

DUCKS UNLIMITED/YHEC DUCK CALLING COMPETITION REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____
STATE _____ TEAM NAME _____

COACH/PARENT/GUARDIAN
NAME _____ EMAIL _____

*BE SURE TO VISIT WITH DUCKS UNLIMITED STAFF FOR INFORMATION ON A
VERY EXCITING FUND RAISING PROGRAM FOR YOUR CLUB AND TEAM,
SPONSORED BY DUCKS UNLIMITED T.R.A.P.*

