

## RBWA Mentor Guidelines

What: **RBWA Jeff Bechard Memorial Mentored Youth Hunt**

When: Oct 1st and 2nd, 2010

Where: Rondeau Provincial Park

Why: To introduce new hunters to a safe and rewarding marsh hunting experience.

### REMEMBER

**As we adults do our thing, we sometimes forget that there are youngsters watching us. We do not ask or plan to be role models. However, we are.**

**Respect is a learned trait, self respect for rules and laws and respect for wildlife are all products of the learning process.**

**Like it or not, we are often the teacher both by word and by our actions.**

Mentors are expected to follow these guidelines:

- 1) During the hunt, **mentors may not shoot, even if the youth has filled his/hers bag limit.**
- 2) Mentors must carry a cell phone with the number of the Waterfowl Office encoded in it. (1-519-674-1775) for emergency requirements.
- 3) If questions arise call the Waterfowl Office.
- 4) Youth do not have access to shells; they will be given one shell at a time by the Mentor. If they demonstrate safe gun handling skills, you may give them 2 or 3 shells. (Don't let a kid continue to shoot three shells at every opportunity. Only give them two shells so they'll learn to slow down.)
- 5) Getting birds is strictly a secondary goal; a safe and fun hunt is always primary. Emphasize the experience.
- 6) Parents will not mentor their own child at this event (as with husband/wife or boyfriend/girlfriend).

### **Schedule I: Checklist for Mentors**

As a mentor to a new hunter you are the key to a successful and safe experience. Remember: **SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY** – this cannot be repeated often enough. Mentors do not shoot.

#### **A) Before the Hunt:**

- 1) Safety, safety, safety.
- 2) Mentors need a Federal Firearms Licence (Possession Only Licence or Possession and Acquisition Licence) as well as their Migratory Bird Permit and an Ontario Small Game Licence.
- 3) Mentors should bring decoys and other hunting equipment
- 4) Mentors should have a cell phone for emergencies. (I would suggest placing it in a Ziploc bag so that it is in a waterproof case.)

#### **In the Field:**

- 5) Safety, safety, safety.
- 6) Dress appropriately for the weather with waders if required

- 7) For boats: boating safety kit, life jackets and paddles/oars: see attached sheet for required boating safety equipment. Mentors are responsible for appropriate safety equipment. **All Apprentices must wear a life jacket while travelling to and from a blind by boat.**
- 8) First aid kit and flashlight

## **B) While Hunting:**

- 1) Safety, safety, safety. Any unsafe behaviour by the new hunter is reason to terminate the hunt.
- 2) Be sure your Apprentice has ear plugs.
- 3) Always be within arm's length of your hunter.
- 4) Your hunter should only shoot one shell at a time until he/she demonstrates proper gun handling skills. Mentor will carry the shells and pass them to the hunter as needed (one at a time for beginners)
- 5) All efforts must be made to retrieve downed birds. Do not allow new hunters to shoot while someone is picking up a downed bird.
- 6) All applicable bag limits and laws are to be observed

### **From the MNR website:**

- a) The apprentice, while hunting must be under the direct and immediate supervision of a mentor who is 18 years of age or older, and who holds a valid Outdoors card of the equivalent class and hunting licence tag for the game species being hunted.
- b) The Apprentice must share a single firearm with the mentor.
- c) An Apprentice must possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Permit to hunt migratory birds.
- d) **With the exception of migratory game birds**, game wildlife taken by the apprentice must be added to the daily bag limit of the mentor.
- e) The Apprentice must carry the Hunter Apprentice Safety Card with them while hunting.

## **C) After Hunting:**

- 7) Safety, safety, safety.
- 8) Mentor must check gun to be sure it is unloaded before encasing it.**
- 9) Return to Waterfowl Office to retrieve licenses.
- 10) Take lots of pictures!

***Remember: Be Safe!!***