

NAVHDA *Apprentice Hunter Program*



Yankee Chapter of NAVHDA



NAVHDA APPRENTICE HUNTER PROGRAM



“Working to Foster, Promote, and Improve the Versatile Hunting Dog Breeds in North America.”

The North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA) is a nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to foster, promote, and improve the versatile hunting dog breeds in North America; to conserve game by using well trained reliable hunting dogs before and after the shot; and to aid in the prevention of cruelty to animals by discouraging nonselective and uncontrolled breeding, which produces unwanted and uncared for dogs.

Our Purpose

The North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association is a legally recognized nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering, improving, promoting, and protecting the versatile hunting dog in North America.

Underlying these aims is the desire to serve the interests of game conservation, prevention of cruelty to animals, and the gun dog hunter by helping the hunter to train his dog to work before and after the shot, on land and in water.

NAVHDA is an excellent complement to the activities of sporting dog breed clubs and field trial organizations. It was created to supplement the activities of those clubs by providing a proven, standard method of evaluating the performance of all versatile hunting dogs, consistent with North American hunting practices, regardless of breed.



SUMMARY

Mission

The mission of the program is to foster the love of hunting with versatile hunting dogs and help educate and train young people in a combination of outdoor skills. The activities include training, hunting and caring for the versatile hunting dog, respect and understanding of conservation, developing hunter ethics, safety and responsibility.

Overview

This is a three day program that provides campers the opportunity to hone their dog training, hunting and outdoor skills. This will be a fun-filled woods and field adventure guaranteed to hook any young outdoors boy or girl to the thrills of training and hunting over versatile hunting dogs.

Ages: 12-14



SAMPLE PROGRAM

FRIDAY: Skills Day - Location: Merrymeeting Kennels

Early Birds - Frisbee

8:00-8:30 - Ice Breaker - Stones / Black Magic / "I'm Going Camping" / In plain site

8:30-9:00 - Morning Meeting: Ice Breaker - Mafia/In plain site/Going on a trip/Black Magic

- Introduction to Camp / NAVHDA - Conservation

- Plan for the day / Behavioral expectations / Hydration / Sunblock / Bug spray/ Compasses

9:00-9:45 - Introduction to Buddy and Gun Handling -

- Mentor Game - Shot Shells / Names

9:45-10:15 - Campers are taken out on a mock hunt teaching gun and dog handling in action. (Crossing a fence simulation, Various Carries, Zones of Fire, Hand-offs)

10:15-10:45 - Red light Green Light

- Kick the can with dogs

- Cracker Challenge

10:45 - 1:30 - Game Warden / Search and Rescue Activity

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- Survival Stories / Tips -
 - Preparing to spend the night in the woods- Shelter / Fire / Signal / Planning...
 - Survival Bracelets / Gear Lanyard - Making Fire Starting Kits
 - Working Lunch

- 1:30 - 3:30 - Fire Building 101 - 3 Parts / Birch Bark
 - Fire Challenge - Mentor Meter Stick Challenge
 - 3 Match Challenge
 - Soapy Water Boil Challenge
 - String Challenge
- 3:30-4:30 - Andy Weik - RGS Regional Biologist –
Game birds biology, behavior and anatomy
- 4:30-5:00 - Compass 101
- 5:00 - 5:30 - .22 Shooting
- 5:30 - 5:45 - Closing - Review / Game - Kick the Can -- Parent Meet and Greet
- 5:45 - - Bonfire / Lip-synch / Dinner / Skits...

"Campers are encouraged to join us for an after camp get together at MerryMeeting Kennels for a pizza party with their parent or guardian. (33 Simpson's Pt. Rd. Brunswick, ME) If possible we would like parents to tent with your child for the night as we will be having planned evening activities. Only those with parental/guardian supervision can spend the night. If you don't have a tent we can provide one for you. Continental breakfast will be served in the morning at 7:00am before we head over to Green Point."

SATURDAY: The Hunt

- 8:00 - 8:40 - Drop Off -Mentor/Dog meets camper - Mentored Dog Training / Empty Gun Handling
- 8:40 - 9:00 - Map and Compass - 101 - Bumper Search
 - Meet at 9:00 at the Green Point Learning Center
- 9:00 - 9:30 - Morning Meeting: Ice Breaker / What's NAVHDA About
 - Plan for the day/Gun Safety/Game Expectations/ Hydration Sunblock / Bug spray
- 9:30- 10:00 - Transport to Varney's Clay Sports
- 10:00 - 12:15 - Shotgunning
- 12:15 – 1:30 - Transportation - Mentors / Bag lunches and water -

Stations:

- ~ .22 Shooting / Practicing Learned Shotgunning Skill -
 - ~ Knife Handling Skills - Make a fire starting stick, Camp fire hotdog stick, Sharpening -
 - ~ Game Etiquette, Biology, Cleaning and Cooking -
 - ~ Hunting over a Versatile Hunting Dog -
 - 1:30 - 2:15 - Station 1 - VHD Hunt
 - 2:15 - 3:00 - Station 2 - Knife Skills / Bird Cleaning Stations / Gun Cleaning
 - 3:00 - 3:45 - Station 3 - Dog Care in the Field -
 - 3:45 - 4:30 - Station 4 - Gunning Skills -
 - 4:45 - 5:00 - Closing Games / Activities
 - 5:00 - 5:30 - Parent Campfire Meet and Greet
- Parent / Guardian and Camper are welcome to join us for an after camp get together at MMK for a pizza party. (33 Simpson's Pt. Rd. Brunswick, ME) Parents/Guardian are welcome to also tent their for the night with their kids - Continental Breakfast in the morning at 7:00am.*

SUNDAY: Woods Craft, Hunting Dogs and First Aid

8:00 - 10:00 - Treasure Hunt - Hike with a Gun

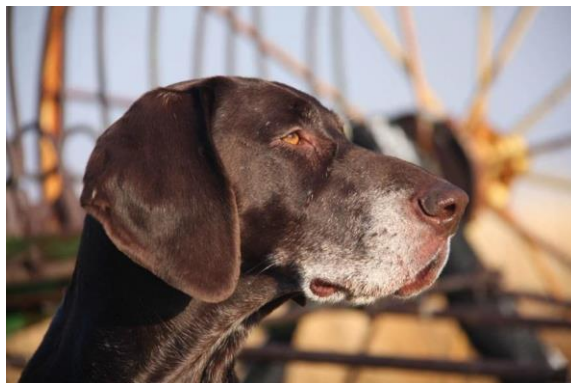
Using a Compass only find way to 8 hidden treasures and then back to camp

10:00-11:30 - Build a waterproof shelter behind camp

12:00-1:00 - Lunch

1:00-2:00 – Hunting Dog Challenge

2:00-2:30 - Closing Ceremony - Parents are Welcome



Documents

Policy Agreement/Waiver

Camper Commitment Form

Photo Release

What to Bring

Medical Release

End of Camp Follow-up Letter

Post Camp - Meeting / Celebration:

1. Reflect on the experience - Group
2. Compile notes and feedback
3. Thank You's
4. Clean Up



