

## HUNTER APPRENTICESHIP SAFETY PROGRAM

Ontario's Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Program allows individuals to safely develop their hunting skills while under the direct and immediate supervision of a qualified mentor. The program provides in-the-field practical training for future hunters. Two classes of Ontario Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Cards are available – one for gun hunters and one for non-gun hunters.

### **Class A1 Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card**

An A1 Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card permits the cardholder to hunt with all methods permitted under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. Applicants for this version of the Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card must be 12 years of age or older and will have to provide documentation that they have passed both the Ontario Hunter Education Course exam and the Canadian Firearms Safety Course exam. These courses are available in a “one-stop” combined course; however both courses are available independently if desired. Graduates will meet provincial training requirements to hunt and the federal training requirements for firearms possession, acquisition and ownership. (Note: to own, acquire and register a gun, you must be 18 years of age or older).

### **Class A2 Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card**

An A2 Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card permits the cardholder to hunt with all methods permitted under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act and regulations except guns. Applicants for this version of the Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card must be 12 years of age or older and provide documentation that they have passed the Ontario Hunter Education Course exam.

### **Other Requirements:**

- Written permission of parent or legal guardian is required if the applicant is 12 to 15 years of age.
- The applicant must be a resident of Ontario.
- 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.
- The Apprentice must share a single firearm with the mentor.
- An Apprentice must possess a federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit to hunt migratory game birds.
- With the exception of migratory game birds, game wildlife taken by the Apprentice must be added to the daily bag limit of the mentor.

- If wild turkey is being hunted, the Apprentice must take the Ontario Wild Turkey Education Course and pass the exam.
- A Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card is valid for a period of three years.
- The Apprentice must carry the Hunter Apprenticeship Safety Card with them while hunting.

For information on Ontario's Hunter Safety Education Program, see the Hunter Safety Education Backgrounder, or visit OFAH's website <http://www.ohep.net> for the Ontario Hunter Education Program.

For information on the federal Firearms Act, contact the Canadian Firearms Centre at 1-800-731-4000 or visit <http://www.cfc.gc.ca>.

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Contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources office for more information.

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