



## Get Educated

Anyone born after Dec. 31, 1968 must have a valid hunter education card to hunt in Arkansas, with the exception of hunters under 16 who are not required to have a card but must be under direct supervision of someone at least 21 who holds a valid hunting license.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission offers hunter education classes across the state on a regular basis, or through an online course. Check the current "Arkansas Hunting Guidebook," call (800) 482-5795 or visit [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com) for more information.



**Keeping The Natural State natural**

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# Hunting Safety

AND  
ETHICS



## Hunting Safety Tips

Safety is the responsibility of all hunters. Firearms are useful tools but their impact on others can be underestimated. Common sense and a few guidelines go a long way toward making Arkansas' outdoors safe for everyone.

- Be aware of your muzzle's direction and be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions.
- Don't rely on your gun's safety. Treat all weapons as if they're loaded and ready to fire.
- Never cross a fence, climb a tree or jump across a stream with a loaded gun.
- Never hoist a loaded firearm into a hunting stand.
- Never load or carry a loaded firearm until you are ready to use it. Unload firearms before carrying them in any vehicle, including ATVs.
- Abide by hunter orange requirements.
- Be absolutely certain of your target before you shoot.
- Know the range of your ammunition and carry only ammunition suited for your firearm.
- Keep guns and ammunition locked and stored separately.
- Tell someone of your travel plans before your hunt begins.

## Hunting Ethics

Ethical hunting is safety's cousin. The two exist because hunting is not a solitary endeavor. Any action a hunter takes eventually will have an impact on another. Without ethical hunting standards, few game animals would remain for future sportsmen.

Hunting on private land, for instance, is a privilege. Spend a few minutes to ask for permission and remember to leave gates as you find them. Show respect to the property owner, crops, fences and livestock. Don't litter.



Put yourself in the landowner's shoes. It takes only one unthinking hunter to sour a landowner on every hunter who asks to hunt the property. Hunt only where the landowner has granted permission and stay away from buildings and livestock.

When the hunt is over, remember to thank the landowner for allowing you to hunt. Write a "thank you" note and consider sharing your game.

The relationship between hunters and landowners is an important aspect of hunting ethics. Here are a few other guidelines.

- Always ask for permission to hunt on private property well in advance of the hunting season.
- Report wildlife violations.
- Leave an area in better condition than you found it.
- Prepare yourself for the hunt, both physically and mentally.
- Obey rules of hunting safety and game regulations and insist those with you do the same.
- Practice marksmanship and acquire hunting skills to assure clean kills.
- Support conservation efforts.
- Keep your campsite clean and don't offend others by displaying your kill.
- Perhaps most important of all – be a role model. Pass along your safety skills and hunting ethics to the next generation.