



Gun Safety Rules for Everyone at Deer Camp

You love to hunt and your kids are starting to get to the age where they would like to try hunting. You appreciate their interest and have enrolled them in the appropriate education course to obtain a license. You also plan to teach them the ropes yourself, starting first with gun safety.

To ensure you don't forget anything, familiarize yourself with these dos and don'ts of gun safety.

DO...

- Treat every gun as though it were loaded.
- Read the owner's manual for your gun and learn how to operate it properly.
- Use the correct ammunition for your gun.

- Carry your gun with the muzzle pointing toward the ground.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until shooting.
- Look at the target and the area beyond it before pulling the trigger.
- Keep your gun unloaded when not in use.
- Store ammunition away from your gun and out of the reach of young children.
- Clean your gun and keep it free of obstructions.
- Make sure your gun is unloaded before cleaning it.

DON'T...

- Point your gun at anyone.
- Modify your gun.

- Run with your gun.
- Climb with your gun.
- Jump with your gun.
- Shoot at a hard, flat surface. The bullet will ricochet.
- Shoot at water. The bullet will deflect and travel a few inches above the water.
- Go hunting when you are overly tired.
- Drink alcohol when hunting.
- Do drugs when hunting.

After you have familiarized yourself with these rules, find a time to discuss them with your kids. Stress to them the importance of following the rules of gun safety and the consequences of ignoring them. Point out, for example, how many people are killed each year in accidents involving guns that were

stored loaded. Rent a video or take your kids to a demonstration on gun safety.

Kids learn best by example, so make sure you follow the rules of gun safety. More importantly, make sure you enforce the rules. Should a situation arise in which your kids forget or abandon a safety rule, take the steps necessary to correct the situation immediately. It could mean the difference between life and death.

Do your kids a favor. Teach them the rules of gun safety, enforce the rules when necessary and help your kids mature into safe, responsible hunters.

Also, go over these gun safety rules with anyone at your hunting camp that you do not know. It NEVER hurts to review gun safety rules.

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