

Gaining Valuable Knowledge

Attending the Buckskin Brigades...

Weston Hurst

Hi, my name is Weston Hurst, and I attended the Buckskin Brigade this year in Sinton.

The Buckskin Brigade was an awesome experience because all the information was taught really in-depth. Everything from: Leopold's 5 Tools for Ecosystem Management, to a deer's diet, to differences of horn/antlers, to rut behavior - the knowledge gained was something I'll be able to utilize in my future.

At the brigade you are in groups called herds. Each herd consists of one herd leader, one assistant herd leader, and five-six cadets. Throughout the brigade, you are always competing to earn points against the other herds.

At the end of camp all the points your herd has gained, are added up, and the herd with the most points gets to go on a hunt.

On the first day, you would think you would do an introduction to the brigade, but instead we jumped right in and learned a deer's a

natomy. The cool part is that we studied it by dissecting a harvested deer.

The main systems we covered were the digestive, circulatory, respiratory, some of the glands, and the parts of a deer you would want to keep when you harvest it.

The second day, after waking up at 5:30 a.m., we were guided to a pasture to collect and identify some native plants. After that learning session, we headed out to the gun range to learn about gun/archery safety, and also to shoot a little bit.

The first spot we went to was for a .243 caliber hunting rifle and the next station had a .22 caliber hunting rifle.

Even though it rained approximately 13" by the end of the third

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