



ELGIN STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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November 4, 2009

Dear Mentor and Apprentice:

This letter confirms your interest in the Youth Hunting Day at Fingal Wildlife Management Area on Saturday November 28th, 2009. We look forward to seeing you there as part of the **morning session**. You and your mentor will be part of **Group 5**. We ask that you bring this letter on the 28th as confirmation.

You should arrive at the Fingal Wildlife Management Area by no later than 8:30 AM as the events will be starting at 9:00 AM. We have attached a map showing directions to 34621 Fingal Line, which is the northeastern access point to the property. **Note this is not one of the public parking areas**. A sign will be posted along the road side so you should find it easily.

Upon arrival, you will be greeted by a volunteer who will direct you to the parking area, the portable gun rack location where you can place your firearm and the numbered stake to meet your marshal. This stake will correspond to your group number identified above. Once there, your marshal will provide a brief overview of the activities, his role and discuss the key responsibilities of the Apprentice and Mentor to help make the day a fun and safe experience.

Again, this will be taking place between 8:45 AM and 9:00 AM so it is very important that you arrive on time.

The morning session has five event stations that your marshal will take you to as follows:

Station one is an orientation session from a Conservation Officer from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources on the role of a conservation officer and why we have game laws. Apprentices will also receive a “refresher” on firearm safety from a hunter education safety instructor. An official welcome from a member of the organizing committee will also be given at this time.

Station two is the portable trap shooting station set up by the St. Thomas Gun Club. Apprentices will have an opportunity to improve their shooting accuracy and hear about more firearm safety before firing their gun at a live target in the field. A prize will be awarded to the Apprentice hitting the most clay pigeons. We ask that Apprentices and Mentors have ear protection at this station. The disposable soft foamy plugs should be adequate.

Station three is the hunting area. You will be accompanied by your marshal to one of six fields along with a dog handler and their trained retriever. **While at the hunting station it is**

extremely important that you listen to the directions provided by the dog handler and the marshal as they move you through this portion of the event.

Station four is a field dressing station. At this location you will learn how to field dress a pheasant from a member of the St. Thomas Gun Club.

Station five is the lunch tent. The Elgin Stewardship Council is supplying a barbeque lunch, drinks and dessert. There will also be an opportunity to eat some cooked pheasant prepared by the stewardship council. After lunch there will be a “rocket net” demonstration for trapping Wild Turkeys, as well as a demonstration by the MNR Canine Unit.

At this point, the morning session will be over and you will be free to leave. Hopefully you will be leaving with one or two birds that you can cook at home. Also, we want you to share some stories about the hunting day with your friends and family as a means to promote this event and youth hunting in the future. Our 5th Annual Youth Hunting Day will be recorded for the purposes of producing a DVD. If you would not like to be filmed, please advise us in advance.

PLEASE REMEMBER THIS IS A HUNTING EVENT. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT BOTH MENTOR AND APPRENTICE BRING A HUNTER ORANGE VEST AND HAT FOR THE DAY. ALSO, MENTORS MUST HAVE A SMALL GAME LICENCE AFFIXED TO THE BACK OF THEIR OUTDOORS CARD AND THE APPRENTICE IS TO BRING THEIR HUNTER APPRENTICESHIP SAFETY CARD. YOUR FIELD MARSHAL WILL BE CHECKING FOR THIS INFORMATION AT YOUR NUMBERED STAKE. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HUNTING PORTION OF THE EVENT WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION ON YOUR PERSON.

Again, the organizing committee thanks you for your interest in Elgin County’s 5th annual Youth Involvement Hunting Day.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours truly,

Mark Emery
Coordinator, Elgin Stewardship Council
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