

Make Sure Young Deer Hunters Know Safety Precautions

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — If you're taking a youngster hunting for the first time this year, make sure he or she understands some important safety rules, says Earle Robbins, Tioga County extension director for Penn State Cooperative Extension.

Robbins is a Pennsylvania Game Commission volunteer, a hunting/trapping education instructor and state 4-H shooting sports coordinator for Penn State Cooperative Extension.

"Young people handling firearms need to develop some important habits," says Robbins. "We can instill these habits by instructing them — and more importantly, by setting an example. New hunters, as well as those who have held a hunting license in another state or country, are required to complete a hunter-trapper education program. These individuals also need role models who practice safe hunt-

ing skills."

Robbins offers these hunting safety tips:

—Make sure firearms are in good working order, and barrels and chambers are free of obstructions. Guns must be sighted properly and have proper-sized ammunition.

—Familiarize yourself with the hunting site, so that you will know what's beyond your target. "Walk through the hunting grounds before deer season starts," Robbins says. "When you know the area, you can keep livestock and buildings out of the line of fire."

—Make sure every member of the group wears a combined minimum of 250 square inches of hunter orange on the head, chest and back.

—Assume every firearm is loaded. "When you pick up a gun, the first thing you should do is check it for ammunition," Robbins says. "When you pass a

firearm to someone else, leave the action open so there is no chance of it firing."

—Unload guns and leave the actions open when you are transporting them to and from the hunting area.

—Always keep track of where your gun is pointed, and keep your finger off the trigger until it's time to fire at your target. Never aim your gun at anything

you do not plan to shoot.

—Know the location of all the members of your hunting group. "Before separating, discuss where each hunter will be standing on watch and who will be walking through the woods," Robbins says.

—Don't shoot until you're absolutely sure of your target. Shooting at a sound or an undefined shape is inviting tragedy.

"During deer season, this also means making sure whether the deer is a buck or a doe," Robbins says.

—Unload your gun before climbing trees, scaling fences and logs, or jumping over ditches.

—If you have shot a deer and are preparing to dress it, don't forget to unload your gun.

—Never engage in horseplay using a gun.

Delaware County Child Care Providers Plan 'Togetherness'

SPRINGFIELD (Delaware Co.) — Delaware County Child Care Providers in collaboration with Penn State Cooperative Extension-Delaware County are sponsoring an inservice on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 8-4 at the Delaware County Community College site on MacDade Blvd. in Collingdale. All child care providers, from centers, group, home-based and those providing child care informally to friends and relatives are in-

ited to attend.

The program will provide six hours of training as required by DPW. A choice of 13 educational sessions, including keynote speaker, Frank Aycox, author of "Games We Should Play in School" will be offered during the day along with exhibits and vendors and a chance to network with other child care providers and those providing services. To register, send a check for \$25 (one person) or \$20 per person (two or more) to Delaware

County Cooperative Extension, 20 Paper Mill Road, Smedley Park, Springfield, Pa. 19064. A brochure is available by calling (610) 690-2655. Lunch and continental breakfast will be included. Registration deadline is Nov. 27. Registrations received by Nov. 20 will be eligible for a drawing for dinner for two at the Little Inn restaurant in Media.

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