



Minnesota Trapper Education Program

MTA Certified Trapper Education Instructors

Greetings All,

As the Minnesota Trapper Education Program continues to evolve and be refined, repeated questions come up along the way. As the new process for certification/recertification has been put into effect, this note is intended to address common questions that have arisen, the first being the necessity and function of the *Instructor Code of Conduct*.

All new instructors and those instructors currently active must agree to sign the *Code of Conduct* at some time prior to hosting their next class. This document simply states expectations of instructors, outlines instructor qualifications and includes an applicant's consent to a background check.

The Board of Directors has approved several changes in the way these courses will be structured from this point on to insure consistency in content and to minimize any potential liability issues in the event that a student is injured at some point during any of our courses.

This is the rationale behind requiring consent to a background check for "crimes of violence" for active instructors and new instructor applicants to help protect the students, the instructor, the Association and the integrity of the MTA/DNR program. Unlike other DNR safety program instructor background checks, this requirement is narrow in scope and concerned only with previous "crimes of violence."

The findings will remain completely confidential and information will not be retained in any form.

In the case of "active instructors" this check only comes into play when he/she schedules a traditional "sit down" trapper education course.

The new *Student Registration and Parental Release Form* is also required from all students participating in these classes and has been adopted to address many of the same concerns raised above

Social Security number: It is not essential for students or parents of students to provide social security numbers in order to participate in these classes. If other identification numbers are available (DNR, MN Driver's license, firearms safety etc.) this is unnecessary. However, if no other identification number is available for the student, it is highly encouraged that this be provided in order to properly identify the individual when the time comes for license purchase.

The Minnesota Trapper Education Instructors Procedures Manual has been adapted from the Volunteer Instructor Procedures Manual DNR provides to all safety course instructors for the programs they administer. It will also prove useful for our trapper education instructors as well. It was developed to help guide instructors and provide teaching techniques and strategies for getting the most out of your class time. However, in the case of Trapper Education Courses financed and administered by MTA, this book should be viewed as a reference to consult in order to increase your effectiveness as an instructor and to help streamline the manner in which courses are scheduled and hosted.

The revised *Instructor Lesson Plan Outline* will also help to keep things on track for instructors as well.

I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank each of you who have decided to provide these vital certification opportunities in you community.

Your investment today, helps in insure a future for our sport tomorrow!

If you need any help along the way, don't hesitate to contact me.

Keep your skinning knives sharp!

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