



Minnesota Trapper Education Program



Field Instructor Checklist

In-Field Instructor Requirements:

1. At least thirty years of age. (Unless approved by Education Coordinator)
2. Have held a Minnesota trapping license for at least five years. (or equivalent)
3. Proof of current/valid membership in any trapping organization is a non-negotiable requirement. MTA (Minnesota Trappers Association), NTA (National Trappers Association), FTA (Fur Takers of America) or any similar regional, State or district trapping organization. Fur marketing services are not an acceptable alternative.
4. Must be multi-species trapper with familiarity and experience in harvesting both water and land animals.
5. Willingness to provide up to four hours of in-field (or simulated) set making with student participation.
6. Other individuals may be approved of by the Education Coordinator if requested.

Focus on each of the following areas:

- a. Trap anchoring
- b. Appropriate and Inappropriate set locations
- c. Trap/Snare choices
- d. Identifying sign and tracks
- e. Water sets (blind, bait, scent etc.)
- f. Land sets (cubbies, boxes, dirt sets, scent sets, bait sets, pole sets etc.)
- g. Regular trap tending
- h. Humane dispatch of catches
- i. Responsible fur utilization/handling
- j. Releasing non-target or out-of-season catches
- k. Reporting accidental take to DNR
- l. Conservation Officer talk.
(This is highly encouraged although not a requirement)

NOTE: These tasks are detailed in the Field Training Task Sheets provided to students.

For obvious reasons, not all of these areas can be properly demonstrated due to time of year, geographic limitations etc. What we're looking to do here is to give these young people a basic overview of things to consider when in the field, tempered with an understanding of the importance of ethical conduct and individual responsibility.

Some of these young people have been waiting far too long to go trapping. Let's get them in the woods as soon as possible.

Keep your skinning knives sharp,

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