



Minnesota Trapper Education Program



RE: Online/ Correspondence Course (OC) Students- Field Training

Greetings,

Congratulations on having successfully completing the written exam!

Unlike traditional sit-down Trapper Education Courses that are routinely offered across the state which naturally include a field day portion of the regular classroom experience, online and correspondence course (OC) students do not have immediate access to a field training component in all circumstances.

Since those that choose to take the OC course option complete the written exam at various times of the year, it is impossible to accommodate each student with field training on an individual “as needed” basis.

All of our instructors and those that administer this program are volunteers and like everyone else, our time is limited particularly during the hectic fur harvesting season which is why students are encouraged to complete the certification process well in advance of the fur trapping season.

There are basically three options for completing the field training aspect of the certification process:

- 1.) The simplest, fastest and most convenient way of completing this portion is for you to approach a local trapper preferably one who is already a MTA Certified Trapping Instructor and make arrangements to log field time with him/her. Although Certified Instructors are *preferred*, any trapper that meets the attached requirements (***Field Instructor Qualifications Checklist***) may provide this service providing they are at least thirty years of age. Many times this will be a father, uncle; friend from church etc. that provides this training or is willing to sign off on the required paperwork that the student has the required knowledge and ability to trap responsibly. Approval of those instructors that don't meet the specified requirements must be made on an individual basis by Education Coordinator.
- 2.) Another option is for the OC student to go along with another instructor's class during their field day portion of the regular classroom training if possible. This option may include waiting until the next traditional course is offered nearby. This may require travel of considerable distance in some circumstances for those that seek certification. Please consult the website www.mntrappers.org for class opportunities.
- 3.) The third option is for me to search for a willing instructor from your general area to provide this training. Depending on the time of the year, this may take some time to complete especially during peak fur harvesting and after immediately after the season closes. Once I have found an available instructor, it will be up to the student and instructor to work out a convenient time to get together.

At this time we're working on scheduling field training opportunities on a regular basis in those areas of the state that have enough student interest.

These opportunities will be posted on the website as they are scheduled.

Keep your skinning knives sharp!

Shawn Johnson

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