

Best Practices for Mentors

The job of the mentor is to deliver instruction and guidance during an angling or hunting event so that the participants will be left with the desire to continue their pursuit of outdoor skills. The following is a list of best practices for each mentor to consider before going to the field with their participants.

- 1) Attempt to evaluate the skill level of the participants in an effort to match the level of instruction with the skill levels of the participants.**
- 2) Take care not to over extend the physical abilities of the participant you are mentoring in the field.**
- 3) Take time to evaluate the expectations of the participant and discuss realistic expectations for the outing. Be willing to adjust the outing to the expectations and abilities of the participants.**
- 4) Share your plan with the participants and the thought process in making your plan.**
- 5) Discuss safety expectations for the hunter or angler and how you expect firearms or other equipment to be handled safely while traveling and in the field.**
- 6) Ensure your participants have the proper license and tags for the game you are pursuing. Licenses and tags must be in the possession of the hunter or angler not the parent or guardian. Take time to ensure they understand boundaries of the hunt units or restrictions that might apply to lakes and streams. Discuss regulations and method of legal take including the proper identification of the fish or game that is legal to harvest.**
- 7) Do not separate from the participants. Do not leave them in the field to return on their own unless you are absolutely sure they can return safely.**
- 8) Check to ensure your participant is properly dressed and equipped to go to the field. Offer guidance on conditions that might be encountered while in the field and the proper equipment and provisions required.**
- 9) Be patient and kind. As a mentor we have the opportunity to teach the love for the outdoors that someone was patient enough to share with us.**