

How to Hold a Doug Kerr Memorial PBS Youth Leadership Hunt

by Guy Perkins

- Have a desire and vision to put a youth hunt on. This is imperative to keep you after it. If you don't have the desire read again what PBS is about.
- Have a co-helper. Divide and conquer. A co-helper(s) will give you an idea sounding board and a shoulder to cry on. You will find as it develops that help comes out of the woodwork.
- Decide what game to pursue that you have access to.
- Discuss -Who and how many will be in Camp?
 - Decide on the number you'd like to host, youth and mentor
 - Decide on and apx dollar amount for meals and licenses
 - Find a CAMP JACK/COOK(s) absolutely essential.
 - Find A EMT or someone first aid certified.
- Find a location to hold the hunt based on the species. If you do not have access to property or issues on public land that hinder the learning experience contact fellow PBS'rs in your area and ask for help on a location. (donated hunting locations are best). It doesn't have to be big game either.
- Look at dates and scheduling conflicts. School may dictate the timing.
- Run the initial draft by the PBS Council and get their blessings. A councilman will need to be able to attend and be on sight to satisfy PBS insurance obligations.
- Outline the hunt and plan the daily activities and what is to be taught and how it will be taught. Will you have speakers, classes, activities, leave time to hunt.
- Put together the marketing of the hunt with enough lead time applications can be secured from PBS and reviewed and selections of eligible youth made. (start a year out at least, we started two and got after the publicity at the year mark).
- After the selections are made start to contact the youth at least bi weekly informing them on what to expect. What to bring. How to prepare. Maybe you want them to read something and be prepared to discuss it. Build items for a blanket shoot etc etc. This keeps them engaged and building anticipation.
- Use mentors and begin to contact people who can help you if you need something donated for the hunt.
- Think through the financial thing and make arrangement to secure the funding.
- General Comments - This doesn't have to be the large production that was put on in Utah. PBS missed a year and I guess we were trying to make up for it. Think of running maybe 4 -5 youth and it doesn't have to be as long either. We just happened to have a season conducive before school began. Think of this whole thing in terms of just taking someone hunting with

you and multiply the effort by the number attending. In our case with the elk hunt we knew we needed more helpers than the two of us because of the nature of the hunt. So we recruited quality local folks outside of the membership, who knew the elk hunting game to help us. If we would have had more members in range...we would have recruited them. As it was we had member Dave Doran from Oregon show up and contribute (16 hour drive). Tim Roberts, a member two hours away. And of course Larry Fischer and his cooking prowess got in our sight real fast (five hours away). The local hunt mentors needed to be PBS members anyway, and one was. It was a good way to introduce these quality bowhunters to the PBS. Make sure that those attending know the requirements. If there is travel involved then arrival to start the thing on time is an important part of it. You can't be traveling back and forth in the middle of the night shuttling folks. Leaders show up on time. Good leaders just ahead of on time. The group that came to Utah made what could have been one of the harder parts to pull off easy by arranging to show up before or within the allotted window.

This can be one of the most rewarding experiences in your hunting lifetime. I have seemed to spend much of my time in the woods showing others how to be there. I have been privileged to have some great experiences. While there were a bunch of dog tired participants after this hunt. I have yet to hear one say it wasn't worth it. What I have had to do is to ask them to take a breather and let me recover before we try it again!

There has been a committee formed to help you as a resource. We went this large in an attempt to spread support and knowledge around the country. How I see it happening is that when you hold a hunt you will then bump four oldest committee members off the committee and you will be on the committee with a couple of others who attended your hunt. Your experience will then be there to help the others who may need some support information with the next hunt. This will also ensure new ideas, broader participation and less burn out. Some of the members of this committee were on the Utah hunt another on the Texas hunt. Larry I think has been on all the hunts so far. So we can help you through this just contact us. One other thought I have had is that when you bump off of this committee you should be pretty excited to get back out on another youth hunt. The bi-laws state a councilman gets to do that I believe the VP position. So there should be no shortage of those running for council.

- Members of the youth hunt committee are as follows:
 - Guy D. Perkins Co-Chair guyp@campchef.com Utah
 - Larry Fischer Co-Chair larry@tradbowl.com Idaho
 - Rich Roskelly richnpam@gmail.com Utah
 - Randy Reeves- randy.reeves.b35o@statefarm.com Texas
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