

Morning Session 1: 9am - 12pm

Learn to Hunt: Whitetail Deer Hunting - Deer hunting is an exciting way to spend time in the woods while matching your skills with one of Maine's most sought-after big game species. Deer hunting is also a great introduction to the traditions held sacred in Maine and a way to learn about this important species in our ecosystem, while supporting Maine's conservation goals. This workshop is a blend of hands-on demonstration and practice, led by professional staff, Registered Maine Guides and experienced hunters. Participants will learn deer habitats, what they feed on, ways a whitetail deer may be harvested in Maine, hunting tactics and equipment, personal safety, shot placement and basic game care.

Fly Tying for Beginners -

Fly tying is a hobby that dates back before fishing as we know it. Fly fishing anglers have developed a keen sense of how to read the streams and how to "match the hatch". A skill that is handy for any angler to know is how to tie your own flies (they become expensive when learning). In this workshop participants will learn the different styles and types of flies, what equipment is needed to tie flies and even create a fly to take home themselves!

Introduction to Canning - As frost threatens to bring an end to the garden season, what do you do with the last of the season fruit and veggies? This class will cover various preservation methods including pickling cucumbers and beans, freezing tomatoes for use, drying peppers and fruit, and canning sauces and jams. As food waste becomes a growing concern, don't let all your hard work die on the vine. Learn how to enjoy what your garden has to offer right up until it's time to plant next spring.

Shotgun Shooting Skills - Whether you are looking to learn how to shoot a shotgun for recreation or for hunting, this hands-on workshop will cover various action types of 20 and 12 gauge shotguns, where you'll have the chance to shoot clay targets or "sporting clays" on the range! We will cover safety aspects, follow-through, stance, and sight picture. There will be plenty of range time where you can shoot multiple types of firearms. Hearing and eye protection are provided.

Foliage Paddle and Basic Techniques - What could be better than immersing yourself in a fall foliage canoe paddling experience during Maine's peak foliage season?! You'll be surrounded by the beautiful fall colors of Mount Christopher against the backdrop of the lakeside ledges and rolling western foothills. We'll go over the basics of canoeing before hitting the water and will take a leisurely paddle with plenty of time for pictures and relaxation! Common Loons, Bald Eagles, Kingfishers and other birds and wildlife are often seen while paddling. Please dress accordingly to be on the water.

Wildlife Tracking: Exploring the Forest for Signs of Wildlife -

The forest that surrounds Bryant Pond is teeming with wildlife including deer, moose, foxes, turkeys, porcupines and many other species. This workshop will take you into various habitats in search of the wildlife that thrives here. Each trip is different as we interpret the story of what we find. Participants will get tracking cards and info that can be used on their next adventure into the forests.

Lunch 12pm – 1 pm

Afternoon Session 2: 1pm - 4pm

Learn to Hunt: Field Dressing and Tracking - Deer hunting is an exciting way to spend time in the woods while matching your skills with one of Maine's most sought-after big game species. If you are lucky enough to harvest your first deer, you'll need the skills and confidence to track and ultimately field-dress your deer and know what to do next to ensure that your hard work and effort to provide meat for your table is smooth and well planned. This workshop is a blend of hands-on demonstration and practice, led by professional staff, Registered Maine Guides and experienced hunters. Participants will learn shot placement, how to "read the shot" tracking for blood and sign, what to do when you find your deer (or don't), field dressing (with a harvested deer), removing game from the woods and skinning and cooling game meat. *Note: an actual deer will be field dressed and processed during this session.

Introduction to Waterfowl Hunting - Maine has plenty of opportunities to hunt waterfowl. During this session, we will cover the basics to waterfowl hunting including laws and regulations, equipment, identifying areas to hunt, and calling techniques. We will also venture to the shotgun range to demonstrate shotgun patterning and shooting techniques. We will finish the session by demonstrating waterfowl processing and preservation.

Campfire Cooking - Have you ever tried getting that smoky fire-cooked taste, only to wind up with a charred mess? In this class, we will teach you the art of fire cooking. We will introduce cooking directly in the coals with foil, dutch ovens, and cast iron skillets. This primitive backcountry skill isn't quite as hard as it may seem; with the right direction from our experienced teachers you will be baking up some tasty cobbler or stew in no time!

Introduction to Trapping - Trapping for fur bearers has been a tradition for thousands of years and today's trappers participate in this activity for various reasons. Trapping helps keep wildlife populations stable and healthy, protects property and habitat, and provides biologists with valuable data to help prevent and manage disease and predict population trends. It's an exciting way to spend time outdoors, while learning the habits and habitats of various species. Learn about the biology and identification of furbearers; types of traps; how and where to set a trap; skinning; and fur handling. We will also provide information on getting your trapper safety certificate and trapping license.

Fire and Survival Skills - Proper fire building is a skill that many folks will call on at some point. This workshop will combine a fire and survival lesson to provide you with the basic essential skills to survive an emergency situation. Whether you are building fires for some summer nights or to keep warm lost in the mountains, you will learn the skills to start a fire anywhere, anytime. We'll also focus a great deal on prevention and preparedness, moving right into specific key skills that will give you the best odds at survival in the backcountry.

Axemanship-Axe, knife, and saw skills – Just in time for fall before the winter snow falls. In this workshop we will spend time learning safe handling techniques for axe, knife, and hand saw use. There will be time to learn and practice contact splits, knife splits, de-limbing and may even try our hands at a wet-day fire if there is time! Join us in discovering the Maine woods craft skills, no experience needed as our experienced staff walk participants through the different styles of timber sports and gain safety skills you can take home to use either in your backyard or camp.