

# Hunter Safety Classes

by Matt Schlueter



**D**uring May, Josh finally reached his goal of attending a "Hunter Safety Class". Signing Josh up was easy through the Game Fish and Parks website, along with picking a class that fit our family's schedule. The class was held at the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls, SD, consisting of three sessions, two evenings, and a field session at Clays West located just west of Sioux Falls by "Wild Water West".

On the first night when we arrived at the Outdoor Campus for the class, we were met by the Hunter Safety Instructor Steve Gaspar and Conservation Officer Cody Symens. When Josh was checking in on the first night, the instructor gave him a book on hunting and firearms safety they used during the class, and was his to keep after the class was done.

During this first night we watched some videos on hunter safety, ethics, along with listening to both instructors talk about various safety topics regarding firearms safety, hunting safely, South Dakota State Laws on hunting and what goes into wildlife management in our state.

As the class progressed, the students learned more about firearms safety and hunting. Some of the skill building exercises the students took part in were: how to safely exit a vehicle with a firearm, load, unload, walking with a hunting partner, and crossing a fence. The students had to take what they had learned and pass a written test and demonstrate the skills of safe gun handling they had learned earlier in the class. At the end of the class each of the students were given an opportunity to shoot at some clay pigeons.

As I think back on when I attended "Hunter Safety Class" in my home town in South Dakota in the mid 1980's, the class was way shorter, with little to no hands on skill building. After attending the class on hunting and firearms safety, the consequences of what could happen if they were not followed became a reality when one of the boys in our class died. He was accidentally shot by another kid who was at his house one afternoon when his parents were at work. The kid had been over to see his older



brother when he shot the boy while he was playing around with a shotgun.

The Hunt Safe Program has come a long way from when I attended years ago. I am glad it has so it can benefit my sons as they grow into the sport of hunting. Education and proper skill building on firearms safety is the first step to prevent accidents in the home, on the range, or in the field.

The education on firearms safety does not stop after attending such a class. As a 12 year old aspiring hunter, it is only the beginning. As sportsmen we owe it to ourselves, families, and friends to continue to educate ourselves and those around us on firearms safety. By con-

tinuing our education and practicing the safe firearms handling skills we can be role models to those around us. 🦋

*Matt Schlueter is a retired Deputy Sheriff from South Dakota with over 19 years of combined experience in corrections and law enforcement, and held the position of Firearms Instructor and DARE officer with the Sheriffs Office he worked at till his retirement. He is also a NRA Certified Pistol Instructor, and owner/chief instructor of Schlueter Firearms Instruction. Matt's goal is to provide the best information possible for those who want to further their knowledge and skills in shooting handguns. Matt's goals also include providing the best training courses possible for students who attended courses he is offering. For those wishing to contact him please visit his website at \t "\_blank" [www.learn2shoot.com](http://www.learn2shoot.com), or you can join him on Facebook at \t "\_blank" [www.facebook.com/SchlueterFirearmsInstruction](http://www.facebook.com/SchlueterFirearmsInstruction).*

**SILENCERS MACHINE GUNS SHORT BARRELS**

## DEEP CREEK OUTFITTERS

WALL SOUTH DAKOTA

**SILENCERS IN STOCK EVERY DAY  
NFA SALES / TRANSFERS  
CLASS 2 MANUFACTURER  
CUSTOM MACHINING  
REPAIRS**



**DEEPCREEKHUNTS  
@GMAIL.COM**

**605-457-2532  
www.FUNGUNSHOOT.com**