



Hunter Information & Training Program News

Winter 2022

Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

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HIT Program certification courses were taught in **31 different cities and villages** during 2021 and we had **479 active volunteer instructors**.

Class Type	Number of Classes	Certified Students
Hunter Ed	161	1,949
Bowhunter Ed	53	465
Muzzleloader Ed	17	66
Crossbow Ed	10	51
Totals:	241	2,531

Class Type	# of Instructors Who Taught at Least 1 Class	Taught the Most Classes
Hunter Ed	203	Paul Houser (Palmer) taught 17 classes
Bowhunter Ed	67	Cordell Gray (Fairbanks) & Kevin McGaha (Anchorage) taught 8 classes apiece
Muzzleloader Ed	22	Bill Sobolesky (Anchorage) & Lyle Wirth (Eagle River) taught 3 classes apiece
Crossbow Ed	16	Anthony Henry, Alex Bortnick, & Michael Jensen (Anchorage) taught 2 classes apiece
Multiple Disciplines	245	Paul Houser (Palmer) taught 19 classes

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2021 we certified the following new instructors:

- 30 Hunter Ed Instructors
- 12 Bowhunter Ed Instructors
- 9 Muzzleloader Ed Instructors
- 4 Crossbow Ed Instructors

Your volunteer hours allowed us to access **\$617,106** in P-R Federal-Aid funds! These funds are used for HIT Program administration and to purchase class supplies, rent facilities, and pay for travel. Thank you for all of your volunteer hours!

Region	# of Classes	Students in Class
Region I (Southeast)	32	302
Region II (Anc, Kodiak, & Kenai Pen.)	115	1,242
Region III & V (Interior & Northwest)	47	413
Region IV (Central & Southwest)	47	574



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Dan Palicka-Juneau Range Manager



Hi, I am Dan Palicka the new Range Manager at the Juneau Hunter Education Shooting Complex (JHESC), known locally as the State Indoor Range. I was born and raised in Pennsylvania. I first visited Alaska as a child

on a cruise to the Aleutian Islands, and from that moment on I knew I wanted to make Alaska my permanent home. I moved to Alaska in 2002 to work on an AmeriCorps trail crew doing work in Juneau, Haines, Denali National Park, Fairbanks, North Pole, Girdwood, and Seward Peninsula. I settled in Juneau and worked in a number of positions including jobs with the Forest Service, Alaska State Parks, and Juneau Docks and Harbors. I also worked for Alaska DNR as a Natural Resource Specialist doing water rights. I hold a BS in Parks Management from Lake Superior State University.

I have always been passionate about the outdoors and fell in love with camping, survival skills, leadership, and community service through my time in Boy Scouts where I achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. I have carried those skills with me throughout my life working in numerous volunteer and community service positions. Teaching and encouraging people to shoot and enjoy the shooting sports has always been something I enjoy doing. I have served on the boards of many Juneau shooting associated non-profits and most recently was President of Juneau Rifle and Pistol Club and Juneau Shooting Sports Foundation. I formed the current non-profit Hank Harmon Public Range Board. I am an NRA-certified RSO, Rifle, and Pistol Instructor.

A few years after settling in Juneau, I met my wife, Martha. We both love animals and have two German Shepherds who keep us busy! If we are not playing fetch, our favorite hobbies are fishing, camping, boating, and hiking. I realized early on that owning a boat in SE Alaska brought

even more enjoyment of the outdoors. Being able to get on our boat and be alone on a beach with a campfire and our dogs is one of the many reasons I call Alaska home. My wife says we own the boat to go fishing; I say we own the boat to go places.



I am excited about the opportunity to work with the public, volunteers, and ADFG staff to increase the usage of the Juneau State Indoor Range and educate people about shooting sports.

2021 Instructor of the Year Awards

Volunteer instructors are the backbone of the HIT Program. As a group, volunteer instructors possess a vast wealth of information which has proven to be invaluable in passing on the knowledge and skills of the outdoors. The HIT Program would like to recognize the following volunteer instructors for making a significant contribution to the HIT Program and considerably advancing the cause of safe/ethical hunting.

Lifetime Achievement Award Ed Bosco of Anchorage



Ed was certified as a bowhunter ed instructor in 1994, muzzleloader ed in 2007, hunter ed in 2009, and a crossbow ed instructor in 2017. Ed has taught over 172 classes certifying over 2,654 students. He's been a member of the Steering Group, coached the RCSP Rimfire League, and provides the Canadian Firearms Safety Course for folks

who want to travel through Canada with firearms. Ed has received the 2012 Muzzleloader Ed, 2017 Hunter Ed, and

[IHEA Instructor Resource Site](http://www.ihea-usa.org/special-offers-for-instructors/)

www.ihea-usa.org/special-offers-for-instructors/



[HIT Program Site](http://www.huntereducation.alaska.gov)

www.huntereducation.alaska.gov



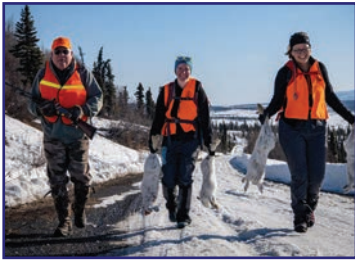
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2019 HIT Outstanding Educator of the Year award. Ed has consistently been one of the top three most active instructors in the Anchorage area for multiple years now and can always be found encouraging adult students to become volunteer instructors and promoting youth students get involved in the shooting sports.

Lifetime Achievement Award Rich Graham of Wasilla



Rich became a hunter ed instructor in 2004 and a bowhunter ed instructor in 2006. He has taught 129 classes certifying 2,218 students. He teaches classes in the Valley and Anchorage, and can always be counted

on to step in at the last minute when an extra instructor is needed. He's been a member of the Steering Group and was the 2018 Hunter Ed Instructor of the Year. He always leads by example and shares his life and professional experience in Alaska with his students (State Wildlife Officer and JBER Wildlife Biologist). He helps mentor new instructors and does a great job helping instruct school hunter ed classes.

Hunter Education Instructor of the Year Paul Houser of Palmer



Paul's commitment to the HIT Program continued in 2021 as he taught 17 hunter ed classes and 2 bowhunter ed classes! Six of the classes were school hunter ed field days and Paul willingly shared his real-world hunting/shooting experience with the students. Paul makes the classes fun for the students and ensures the field course is interesting and informative. His willingness to teach was a huge help this past year and ensured that the HIT Program met the community need for classes in the Valley.

Bowhunter Education Instructor of the Year Kevin McGaha of Anchorage



Kevin taught 8 bowhunter ed classes in 2021 which certified 85 students. He was certified in October 2017 and has been an active instructor ever since. He stepped in to help during the summer months when lots of bowhunter ed classes were scheduled and got the chance to teach with a number of longtime and new instructors too.

Outstanding Educator of the Year Bill Kubik of Wasilla



Bill Kubik taught 11 hunter ed classes and 3 bowhunter ed classes which certified 199 students in 2021. He helped instruct the Migrant Education school field days held last spring at Finger Lake Elementary School.

He is a very patient instructor and it was noted that his calming presence helps keeps students engaged while ensuring all topics of the course are covered.

Rural Instructor of the Year Mark Somerville of Copper Center



Mark Somerville has been a hunter ed instructor since 2005 and a muzzlelodaer ed instructor since 2006. He has instructed at least one hunter ed class in Glennallen for 16 of the past 17 years, and if a student completed

hunter ed in Glennallen, odds are that Mark was one of the instructors. He also became certified as a NASP Basic Archery Instructor in 2014 and helped get NASP set-up at the Kenny Lake School.

HIT Program Steering Group

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Instructor Notes

Volunteer Instructor Pins in 2021

The HIT Program awards 500 and 1,000 hour pins to instructors who have volunteered that much time for the HIT Program. Five-year pins are also awarded in increments when a volunteer instructor has remained active with the HIT Program for a five-year period. The first five-year pins have a start date based on the year 2002, which is when hunter education became mandatory in part of the state. Thank you to these dedicated volunteer instructors!



Dakota Arnold-North Pole
Stephen Berendzen-Fairbanks
Michael Bradley-Fairbanks
Boyd Branch-Sitka
James Brazeau-Talkeetna
Joseph Brewer-Homer
Molly Cunfer-Anchorage
Winston Davies-Wrangell
Michael Degman-Fairbanks
Andrew Dore-Eagle River
Ronald Doshier-Anchorage
Douglas Drake-Fairbanks
William Dunker-Nome
Terry Fuller-Dillingham
Jack Greenhalgh-Sitka
Drew Gruening-Juneau
Steven Gustin-Sitka
Alysia Hancock-Glennallen
Ryan Hastings-Ft. Wainwright
Heidi Hatcher-Glennallen
Joshua Heinbaugh-Fairbanks
Melissa Hendrickson-Fairbanks

Krista Holbrook-Fairbanks
Laura Huling-Soldotna
Tim Kuivila-Anchorage
Jess Lujan-Juneau
Frank Marley-Anchorage
Patti Miller-Copper Center
Bobby Ruby-Talkeetna
Robert Scott-Dillingham
Dora Sigurdsson-Anchorage
Melissa Smith-Soldotna
Mark Stopha-Juneau



August Asay-Anchorage
Chet Benson-Anchorage
Aaron Degnan-North Pole
Tom Halverson-Fairbanks
Justin McGinnis-Glennallen
Kenon Paul-Fairbanks
Kristen Romanoff-Juneau
Joedy Wake-Anchorage



Sam Albanese-Eagle River
Logan Balstad-Juneau
Andy Finke-Kodiak
John Harvey-Tok
Vaughn Hazel-Sitka
Rafe Johnson-Bethel
Chris Launer-Eagle River
Scott Lubber-Anchorage
Alan Pefley-Anchorage
James See-Craig
Steve Untiet-Anchorage

HIT Staff

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(Kodiak)



(Anchorage)