

# Introduction



Paul Ritter and daughter Jessica with her first turkey.

Dear Hunter Education Student:

Congratulations on taking the first step in becoming a licensed New Jersey hunter. By completing this course, you will join over 750,000 other hunter education graduates who have also completed these requirements. Hunter education in New Jersey dates back over 50 years. In 1955, New Jersey was the second state in the country to mandate hunter education for all new hunters. Since that time, a dedicated corps of volunteer hunter education instructors have donated over 500,000 hours of their time and expertise. Because of this extraordinary effort, hunting in New Jersey remains a safe outdoor activity for all to enjoy.

The award winning hunter education program you are now taking has become a model for other states across the country. New Jersey was the first state to utilize an alternate delivery system (home study) in 2002. Since that time we have seen a steady increase in graduates from what had been a steady decline since the early 1990's. This new hunter education program has brought the fun and excitement back into learning about hunting and our wildlife resources while involving the entire family in the process.

We should not forget, that for this tradition to continue we need to foster the love we have for the outdoors in the next generation of hunters. Remember to include your family and friends in your outings and explain to them why you have such a strong desire to be outdoors and to be hunting. It will only be through this effort that hunting and hunter education will continue to be a rich New Jersey tradition.

Sincerely,

Paul Ritter  
Supervising Biologist  
NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife