

Hunting and Fishing Sportsmanship



Life Skill: Communication

Project Skill: Deriving ethics

Objective: Learn basic rules for being a good sportsman while hunting or fishing on another's property

Success Indicator: Participants make a code of ethics that is acceptable to several landowners.

Provisions Needed

- Notebook
- Pen



Trailhead

You may have heard the expression “Courtesy is contagious.” What do you think this means? How does it apply to hunting and fishing sportsmanship? If someone lets you use his or her land or pond and you abuse or misuse that privilege, you may find you are not welcomed

back. In the future, others may suffer from your actions and find the land closed to use. **Good sportsmanship means respecting landowners and property. It also means extending respect to other hunters and fishermen.**



Trailblazing

Interview several farmers or landowners, and find out how they feel about their land being used for hunting or fishing. Ask them about their experiences—both good and bad—in dealing with guests. **After your interview, make a list of 10 rules that, if followed, will gain the respect of the landowner and permission to use the land.**

This will be your code of ethics. Have a landowner read it; then ask if he or she would permit an outdoorsman to use the property if the outdoorsman followed the rules covered in your code. If not, find out why. Revise your code to incorporate the landowner's concerns.

make a list of 10 rules; this will be your code of ethics



Hunting and Fishing Sportsmanship

Here are a few examples of good stewardship

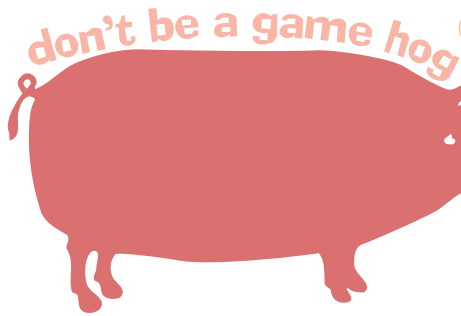
👉 Your permission to use a person's land is not transferable to others unless specifically stated. An invitation to hunt or fish does not mean that you may invite all your friends, unless they are specifically included in the invitation.

maintain fences. Always go through gates or gaps when possible. Close any gates behind you. Climb over woven-wire fences only at strong posts.

👉 Never leave your trash—or other people's trash.

👉 Allow sufficient space between yourself and other hunters or fishermen.

👉 Obey any catch limits and bag limits. Don't be a game hog.



👉 Fences are important for controlling livestock and protecting sensitive areas.

It is a time-consuming chore to put up and



The Extra Mile

Sportsmanship involves using common sense and treating others as you would like to be treated. Develop a code of ethics for hunting and fishing that incorporates how you should behave toward other sportsmen and toward wildlife. Should your behavior toward other people differ from your behavior toward animals?



Field Notes

share

- What important concepts did you learn from interviewing landowners?
- What did you discover that you might have missed without their ideas?

process

- Which items in your code were more important or less important and why?
- How can good communication ensure that everyone's feelings are accommodated?
- What do you think it means to be a **stakeholder** in an issue?

generalize

- In what other areas of your life do you examine principles of stewardship and fairness?

apply

- Why is it important to be able to communicate and get feedback about problems and issues? How does this make you a better citizen?