

WYOMING YHEC 2026 CHALLENGE - RULES AND REGULATIONS

Date: Saturday, June 13, 2026

Location: Upton Gun Club range near the Cedar Pines Golf Club, Upton, Wyoming.

Check in: 7:00 a.m.

Activities start: 7:30 a.m. and will continue until all participants have completed the events; awards ceremony will follow shortly after.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Must have completed hunter education
2. Sub-Junior division (11 years of age and under)
3. Junior division (12-14 years of age)
4. Senior division: (15 – 19*)

***EXCEPTION:** Participants, who turn 19 years of age during the calendar year 2026, must be enrolled in high school for the full school year of 2026-2027 to be eligible for participation at the state YHEC event.

RESPONSIBILITY EVENTS:

1. Hunter Responsibility Exam
2. Hunter Safety Trail Challenge
3. Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge
4. Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge

SHOOTING EVENTS:

1. Hunting Shotgun Challenge
2. Light Hunting Rifle Challenge
3. Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge
4. Hunting Archery Challenge

SAFETY:

1. All firearms and archery equipment will be pointed in a safe direction at all times
2. All firearms and bows must be **unloaded** and **cased** if not on firing line
3. All firearms must have a safety device that will remain on at all times, except when ready to fire
4. Arrows must be cased or quivered when not on the firing line ready to fire
5. All participants must wear adequate eye and ear protection while on the firing line
6. Make sure all firearms and bows are safe to fire.
7. Firearms and bows will not be allowed left around the property without the owner present.

EVENT RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- 1. Hunter Responsibility Exam**, chaired by Katie Simpson and Mindy Blahnic: Participants will complete a written examination (multiple choice, true or false, or fill in the blank). Correct answers are worth 10 points each.
 - a. Prohibited Items: Hunter education books, written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials, cell phones or other electronic devices, communication between the participants, coaches or other individuals while the course.
 - b. Material for the test can come from: Wyoming Hunter Education manual or online course, and Wyoming Hunting Regulations. There will be 15 questions for the sub-juniors, 20 questions for juniors and 30 questions for the seniors.
- 2. Hunters Safety Trail Challenge** chaired by Brady Morris: Participants will walk through a 10 station pre-determined trail designed to simulate actual hunting conditions including a simulated license. Stations may include, but are not limited to, hunter game situations, target identification, and safe gun handling afield. Maximum possibility of 300 points.

- a. Prohibited Items: Hunter education books, written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials, cell phones or other electronic devices, communication between the participants, coaches or other individuals while the course.
- 3. **Hunting Wildlife Identification Challenge** chaired by Becky Morris: Participants will walk through a 30-station course. Wildlife identification will be conducted with participants observing animal tracks, mounted animals, and reading and identifying wildlife sign from 1-50 yards. Maximum possibility of 300 points.
 - a. Prohibited Items: Wildlife identification books, Encyclopedias, written, taped or transcribed information and reference materials, cell phones or other electronic devices, communication between the participants, coaches or other individuals while the course.
- 4. **Hunting Orienteering Skills Challenge**, pending new event director: Will be conducted with participants taking compass bearings, pacing and reading maps. Participants may use a pacing chart. Participants may also be asked to identify map symbols and judge distances. Maximum possibility of 300 points.
 - a. Prohibited Items: Calculators, orienteering books, Encyclopedias, written taped or transcribed information and reference materials, cell phones, electronic equipment including electronic or battery-operated compasses, communication between the participants, coaches or other individuals while the course.
- 5. **Hunting Shotgun Challenge** chaired by Jim Dawson and Cliff Abbott: Participants will move through a multiple station hunter clay course designed to simulate hunting conditions. The scorers will call lost for any targets they determine are missed. Any challenge to a call must be made immediately by the participant. Senior division participants will start at the “ready position”; calling for targets requires the gun to be off the shoulder, with the butt plate below the shoulder the firearm may not be shouldered until the target is visible. Sub-Junior and Junior division participants will be allowed to begin with the gun shouldered prior to calling for the bird. 12, 20, 28- and .410-gauge shotguns will be permitted. Sub-Juniors will shoot 15 single targets; Juniors will shoot 20 targets consisting of singles and report-pairs; Seniors will shoot 25 targets consisting of singles, report-pairs and true pairs. Each hit target will be worth 10 points. Juniors and seniors should have a shotgun capable of holding two shells. Only factory loaded target shells with shot size between 7.5 and 9 will be permitted.
 - a. Prohibited Items: Release triggers, shot size larger than 7.5, shot size smaller than 9, cell phones or other electronic devices, coaching (or attempted coaching) from spectator areas.
- 6. **Light Hunting Rifle Challenge**, chaired by Galen Stafford: Participants will take shots at NRA life size paper, knock down or silhouette game targets varying in distance from 15 to 75 yards, with scoring areas over the vitals that are considered the center of mass of the game. Participants will shoot from 1) Short range 30 yards or less from standing position; no props permitted; 2) Medium range 60 yards or less participants may use any shooting position, excluding prone; 3) Long range 75 yards or less, participants may utilize any shooting position and props that are approved by the chair. Only standard .22 caliber rifles designed primarily for hunting will be permitted, all action types, excluding fully automatic, will be permitted. The rifle may not exceed eight pounds-eight ounces (8.5 lbs.) in weight without a sling and must have a minimum trigger pull of two pounds. Rifles may be equipped with a hunting sling not to exceed 1.5-inch width. Rifles may also be equipped with Sporter type thumb-hole stock (nonadjustable). Sights will be open, peep with a standard front post and bead, or hunting scopes nine power or less. Maximum possibility of 300 points.
 - a. Prohibited Items: Clothing with adding padding, stiffness or shirt cup designed to assist shooter in remaining steady, shooting mats, adjustable competition sling swivel, kneeling roll, competitive thumbhole stocks, palm rests or forearm stocks exceeding 2 inches wide or 2 inches deep as measured from the center line of the bore, scopes fixed or variable power

optics with capabilities greater than nine power, range finders, peep sights with rear aperture less than two millimeters, binoculars, monocular or spotting scopes, more than one shooting position per shooting sequence, shooting sticks, coaching (or attempted coaching) from spectator areas, cell phones or other electronic devices.

7. **Hunting Muzzleloader Challenge**, chaired by Lyndon Miller: will be conducted with participants shooting at NRA life size paper, knock down or silhouette game targets varying in distance from 20 to 50 yards. Each participant will shoot 4 shots: Seniors will shoot 2 shots off-hand and 2 shots sitting with an aid. Sub-juniors and juniors will shoot 2 shots sitting with an aid and 2 shots from the prone position. Participants may use any flintlock or percussion musket cap or 209- primer type Muzzleloading rifles .510 caliber or smaller will be permitted, Muzzleloader may have a set trigger (not to be set until ready to fire), muzzleloaders may be equipped with a sporter type thumbhole stock (non-adjustable), muzzleloader may also be equipped with a sling not to exceed 1.5-inch in width. Muzzleloaders will have open sights. Muzzleloaders may be loaded with single projectile patched balls or pure leaded bullets. Participants using their own muzzleloaders will be required to snap a cap with the barrel pointed downrange prior to beginning the course of fire.
 - a. Prohibited Items: Shooting mats, scopes or telescopic sights, range finders, binoculars, monocular or spotting scopes, more than 60 grains of black powder or Pyrodex by volume, pure lead bullets/balls weighing more than 385 grains, kneeling rolls, adjustable competition sling swivels, Muzzleloaders larger than .510 caliber, more than one shooting position per shooting sequence, wooden ramrods, metal jacketed bullet Sabots, coaching (or attempted coaching) from spectator areas, cell phones or other electronic devices. No fowling shots will be allowed.
8. **Hunting Archery Challenge** chaired by Katie Simpson: Participants will be taking shots at targets varying in distance from 10 to 40 yards. Targets will be either NRA life size game target or 3D game targets with scoring areas directly over vital areas of the animal. Shooter may use only one bow (exemption bow malfunction), only hunting type compound, recurves or long bows. Bows may be equipped with hunting type sights, self-adjusting sight (i.e. Sightmaster). Maximum of 300 points possible.
 - a. Prohibited Items: Cable stops, extended sight bars that measures farther than six inches from the back of the riser of bow to the front of sight, manually adjustable sights may have no more than six sight pins or be adjusted to more than six sight positions, more than one stabilizer, stabilizers over twelve inches, range finders, crossbows, broad-head hunting tips, arrow shafts that do not have target or field points, sights that have lens with or without magnification, shocker points, bludgeon points; coaching (or attempted coaching) from spectator areas cell phones or other electronic devices.
9. **Cherokee Challenge**, chaired by Nick White: This is an optional and fun event where participants can try different outdoor skills such as, throwing ax's, shooting a sling shot, and throwing a spear, among other challenges. This will be held as the other events are wrapping up and will not count toward the overall participants score. Adults and family members are encouraged to give it a try.

AMMUNITION AND TARGETS: The Wyoming State YHEC will supply all ammunition and targets. Participants may bring their own ammunition as long as it is new factory loaded ammunition and meets the event standards.

TIE BREAKER CRITERIA:

- Individual scores will be broken by 1) highest score on the Hunter Responsibility Exam; 2) Hunter Safety Trail 3) highest combined score in the four responsibility events and 4) combined score of the four shooting events.