Utah YHEC Basics- Events Breakdown

22 LR

This event will consist of 6 stations where 5 shots will take place (a total of 30 shots). Shots will range from 0-75 yards. Each station may use a different shooting position (standing, kneeling, sitting, and prone). Stations may use props or shooting scenarios (standing using a post, tripods, shooting from a ground blind, prone using a log, etc.). Targets will be standard rimfire silhouette targets (chicken, turkey, pig, and ram).

To get started with this event start by shooting in the different shooting positions. Start close and build your confidence as you work out to farther distances. Paper targets in the shape of chickens, rams, pigs, and turkeys are available to print and use.

Shotgun

This will be a sporting clays style competition. Expect clay targets to be thrown from all directions. Most targets will be true doubles but some report pairs (second bird is launched at the sound of the first shot) may be thrown. 30 shots will be taken. The best practice for this would be 5-stand or a walk through sporting clays course. If those are not available, then start with skeet or trap.

Muzzleloader

The muzzleloader event will consist of 10 shots. You will shoot at metal silhouette or knockdown style targets. Shot distances will range between 0-75 yards. Each station may use a different shooting position (standing, kneeling, sitting, and prone). Stations may use props or shooting scenarios (standing using a post, tripods, shooting from a ground blind, prone using a log, etc.).

There will be a small test on basic muzzleloader safety. Typically, this is a true and false test with no more than 15 questions.

To start get comfortable shooting a muzzleloader from the three basic shooting positions. Start by shooting paper at 25 yards and then work on longer distances after that.

Archery

The archery event will be a walk through style 3D course. Targets will range from 0-40 yards. 30 shots will be scored. Scoring will use the traditional 3D rings and will be scored 10-8-5. Targets will be standard Delta or Reinhart targets. No rangefinders will be allowed. Start by getting comfortable shooting a bow at different distances from 10-40 yards.

Written Exam

The written exam will consist of 60 questions. All questions will be taken from the book The Hunter's Guide that is produced by the NRA. The questions will go over everything from ethics to information on wildlife species. This will not be an open book test so be sure to study! A good source to google is QUIZLET. There have been many YHEC test study quizzes made on there. Contact Levi Bassett (levibassett@utah.gov) for your free copy of the Hunter's Guide.

Safety Trail

Safety trail is designed to test the young hunter's ability to make safe and ethical decisions. It will go over basic safety scenarios and have you react to each of them. You will find anything from crossing a fence or ditch properly to encountering animals in the wild. You may even be tested on judging an animals distance in yards. To help, study the Hunters Guide book and it will go over many of the ethical and safety examples. Also, if needed take a traditional hunter education course to get a refresher.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQvzicP6SjA&t=116s

Orienteering

Orienteering is the ability to use a map and compass. You will be tested on how well you can use a compass to find way points, as well as, how well you read a map to find different landmarks. Do not get overwhelmed by this as it takes time to learn. The best thing to do is find a good compass, topographical map and watch some YouTube videos. Below are some good examples.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0cF0ovA3FtY&list=PLD-SGmBOcW87-ci2UpNSyaRFhcn1vhDRv

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoVcRxza8nI

Wildlife Identification

Wildlife identification is the ability to identify the game animals of North America. You could encounter all sorts of things from scat, tracks, a small piece of fur, skulls, or bones. The best way to study is get a get the Hunters Guide book, go, and visit different areas that have taxidermy mounts. The public shooting ranges in Logan and Salt Lake are great areas with lots of mounts to look at.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWE_bHEoXGc&list=PLZb5DyVcCk97nOlv3Rg9QTErKCQ93xcyJ&index=3

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPC72Oguurs&list=PLZb5DyVcCk97nOlv3Rg9QTErKCQ93xcyJ&index=2