You are Just Like Them!
Except Different

A Fresh Approach to Mentoring

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Why We Hunt

Us
1. Recreation/Sport
2. Be with Family/Friends
3. Close to Nature
4. For the Meat

Them
1. MEAT (self-sustainment)
2. Social/Community
3. “Real” Outdoors
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Relationship with the Outdoors

Results may vary. Golf is not Nature.
Relationship with the Outdoors

• They may not have played in the outdoors like you did
• They might jump when an owl hoots....if they stay out that long
• They may be naturalists, but they don’t recognize an outdoors with a dead thing in it
• They need help writing or re-writing their outdoor identity
Tradition is Meaningless.. For Now

- Don’t talk about tradition…they don’t have any yet
- They don’t have family heritage or the support and institutional knowledge that goes with it
- They need someone to invite them and encourage their learning
- They need time to make a social support circle for hunting/fishing/shooting from their existing circles
What Do They Like?

• You support who they are and what they believe in
• You’re authentic and open
• You keep it simple...they’re prepared for homework
• ALL of your knowledge and experience!
You Are Not Going to Change Their Values

- Their views will evolve on their own
- Do not try to convert them to your thinking or culture
- If they sense coercion, they will walk
- Fully support their choices
Focus on Common Values

• Conservation (habitat, ecology)
• Clean-kill ethic
• Ethic of utilization, especially food
Respect Differences

• Ideas about what animals to take
• Perceptions/feelings about death/killing
• Politics, especially gun politics
Conscious Learners

• Are less forgiving of teaching styles
• Like and need to feel respected
• Want to be active in their learning

• Make time to learn about:
  ✓ Who they are
  ✓ What they want to learn and do
  ✓ What concerns them

• Adapt your approach
But Mentors Need Help, Too

- I think it’s more important to introduce kids to hunting
- I don’t know where to find them
- They seem too different from me
- I’m not as comfortable teaching/instructing adults
- I am concerned about saying or doing something that might offend them
- I just don’t have enough time to coach anyone
- I’m concerned about liability issues
- I’m concerned that more people will hunt in my spot or on my land
Go Beyond Mentoring

• “Mentoring” implies the C-word
  ✓ Blind date/marriage with an alien
  ✓ Deterrent to both parties
  ✓ Barrier to relationship-by-choice

• We need more on the menu than just “Mentoring”
Go Beyond Mentoring

WikiHunter
Hunter Chat
Hunter Help Hotline
Topical Expert
Instructor
Coach
Mentor
The Big Picture

- It’s more like spreading a virus than running a copy machine
- Not just recruiting new license buyers
- Creating a ripple effect
  - New generation of ambassadors
  - New banners for hunting
Thanks!