
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



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- 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!

