Liberty University Bowhunting
Policies & Procedures
UPDATED FALL 2015

Requirements
- You must be a current Liberty University Student or Faculty/Staff with a valid id.
- Purchase and possess required VA resident hunting license
- Attend BowHunting Safety meeting
- Complete Assumption of Risk form as well as Emergency Contact form
- Pay Bowhunting registration fee
- Possess bowhunting membership card

Procedures
- Park in designated area; do not drive off designated roads.
- Sign in name, cell #, date, time, and zone location before entering hunting location.
- Sign out date and time.

Hunting with a partner is strongly recommended and carrying a cell phone is required

Please practice bowhunting etiquette! If you are hunting early a.m. or late evening, please do not come in late (at sunrise) to your stand or leave early (before sunset). Also remain on the mountain roads when traveling through the property as long as possible. It is NOT proper etiquette to walk through a wooded zone where someone else is hunting!!

Vehicle Parking Decal
All members will have displayed a Liberty University official parking decal on their vehicle while parked on Liberty University hunting property. Vehicles parked at or on Liberty University property without a Liberty University decal will be considered as trespassing and the vehicle will be towed at the owner’s expense.

Identification & Membership
The Liberty Bowhunting membership card must be carried by all members when on hunting property. Government issued photo identification must also be on members when on hunting property. Both must be presented on demand to Liberty University staff, LUPD, Game Wardens, and other members.

General Rules
- All Archers must read and agree to and follow all hunting safety rules.
- All Archers must sign the Assumption of Risk form prior to participating in any hunting activities.
- Any violators of the safety rules will have their privileges revoked and will be banned from the property.

The following polices are required to maintain your hunting privileges:

- Members are responsible to read and obey all county, state, and federal hunting regulations.
- LU members must always wear 100 square inches of solid blaze orange and visible from 360 degrees when hunting on Liberty University's property regardless of the season.
- Use of a safety belt and harness is REQUIRED whenever using any tree stand on archery property. –FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL RESULT IN REVOKED PRIVILEGES.
- Members may set personal stands on the property, but each stand must be identified with a weather resistant tag that includes the following information:
  ➢ Full Name
  ➢ LU Student ID #
  ➢ Phone #
  ➢ 2014-2015 Season
- Members are free to use club stands on a first come first serve basis.
- Members shall not use personal stands of fellow club members set on archery property without prior verbal and/or written permission of the stand owner.
- No alcohol, tobacco, or drugs permitted on any property at any time.
- Always be sure of your target and background before firing.
There will be no hunting with guns. **Bows only.** Traditional, Compound and Recurve only. **NO CROSSBOWS.**

Hunting Club dues must be paid on dates determined by Camp Hydaway. Amount of dues each year will be determined by Camp Hydaway staff.

All membership dues are non-refundable.

All members will be required to fill out a new membership application each season.

**ABSOLUTELY NO GUESTS.** This privilege is for those who qualify and are issued a valid membership.

Vehicles must be parked in designated areas. Vehicles may **ONLY** be driven up the mountain road to retrieve a harvested deer from the property. **–FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF PRIVILEGE FOR ALL CLUB MEMBERS TO DRIVE VEHICLES PAST THE KIOSK PARKING AREA.**

Any careless or reckless driving on club property is cause for dismissal from the club and its property.

Field dressing a harvested deer may be done on the property.

Students **MAY NOT** take harvested deer onto Liberty University’s campus at any time. If a student wishes to process their own deer, they must procure a place off campus to do so.

**Animal Management Guidelines**

- Club members must harvest a doe before harvesting a second buck.
- Members must harvest a second doe before harvesting a third buck.
- Bucks that may be harvested must meet one of the following criteria:
  - Must have 4 points on one side, or the spread on the antlers must be the width of the ears or approximately 15”.
  - Vehicles may be used to retrieve deer but may not be taken off the main logging roads.
  - Club members must report each deer that is harvested including time, date, sex, and location to Mike Ellsworth, Assistant Director of Student Activities. (mellsworth@liberty.edu)
  - Club members are expected to retrieve any deer that has been wounded and properly extract the deer from the property. If you have problems tracking or retrieving, contact Camp Hydaway at 434-592-6284 or Mike Ellsworth.

**Students may hunt the marked sections on the backside of Lone Jack Mountain, which is from Camp Hydaway Rd to the top ridgeline of the archery property. No one is permitted to hunt in or scout in the indicated zones.**

- Stand placement- it is allowable for club members to secure their own personal stands on the Lone Jack property. However, upon recognition of a stand that is already been placed, club members are asked not to set a stand within 100 yards of a preset stand. Hunting areas are first come, first serve. Just because a permanent stand has been set does not mean that one cannot bring a climber and hunt that same area if they have signed in to that area based on the first come, first serve basis.
- Scent control- as with the nature of any hunt club, many members have the opportunity to come and go while hunting particular areas. Please make every effort to control your scent each time you enter the hunting area, this includes scouting and stand placement. Lack of scent control can push game out of your hunting area. Great article to read concerning this can be found by [here](http://hubpages.com/hub/Deer-Hunting-Scent-Control-Tips)

**What You Should Know About Scent Control When Deer Hunting**

A big buck has one of the most extraordinary sniffers in the woods and fooling it is easier said than done. A mature deer's nose can smell 100 times better than a human's nose. A deer can smell human scent as far as 150-200 yards away with a slight breeze and can continue to pick up the scent for several days after. When a deer checks the wind you might see them licking their nose, this helps moisten the scent which allows them to smell better.

Scent is the deer's biggest line of defense over both sound and sight. It is how the deer communicate with one another and how they avoid danger from predators. Deer have many scent glands and leave signs for other deer to pick up on. Scent is a deer's language and is also a hunter's biggest challenge.

Beating a big buck's nose straight up is like beating Peyton Manning in a quarterback challenge. You just have to hope he is having an awfully bad day. One of the easiest ways to fool an old wary buck is to play the wind. Being downwind of a buck with a steady stiff breeze is your best chance of getting close. Your scent molecules are carried by the slightest breeze so if it is blowing away from the deer there is no chance for him to smell you.

Without playing the wind direction game the stakes are definitely increased and only the best of hunters will be prepared enough to still be able to get close to a deer. Many articles on deer hunting tips and scent control have been written but season after season I see so many hunters not paying attention to their scent. I guess they are not that serious about hunting or they think every deer within range is going to come in on them upwind; not a very likely scenario.

I love it when I see a hunter early in the morning in full camouflage putting gas in his truck. He'll pump his gas getting fumes all over his clothes and then walk right into the woods and hunt for the next couple of hours wondering why he didn't see anything. He blames it on the fact that “the deer weren't moving” or some other lame excuse and never entertains the idea that his scent scared off every deer in the county.
To trick a deer's nose I definitely say always play the wind. You should have several stands set up for different wind directions. Be disciplined and never sit in a particular stand when the wind is not right! One sit in a stand when the wind is blowing the wrong way and you may have just ruined that spot for the season as far as shooting a mature buck. If the wind changes directions while you are on stand then climb down and move or just head back in, it isn't worth screwing up a good stand location.

Today there are so many scent control products on the market that there is really no excuse for any hunter not to take advantage of them. Some of the products that produce the best results are the scent neutralizers, scent control clothes, and the soaps (body and laundry).

To start you first have to remove as many dead skin cells off of you as possible. You should shower just before every hunt using one of the scent free body soaps and shampoos. Personally I like to dry off with a towel that has been washed with my hunting clothes using scent control laundry soap. I even go as far as to use the Dead Down Wind fabric softener sheets in the drier. If you have a scent free isolated place to hang your clothes outside, letting them air dry will also work well.

After showering use a hunter's deodorant just in case you begin to get a little warm walking to the stand. I'll throw on some street clothes that have also been washed with the hunting laundry soap. I will then get out of the house, cabin, or camp as soon as possible; hanging around will only increase the chance of some type of human scent contaminating you again. Always store your hunting clothes in a scent free bag. There are quite a few carbon and charcoal lined bags that will keep out any unwanted scent molecules. If you do not have one, a good-sized plastic garbage bag will also work.

Once arriving to your hunting location sit in the vehicle for a minute to allow any lingering exhaust fumes to blow away. I always get dressed into my hunting clothes in the field. A lot of hunters will skip this step. But nothing can sabotage your hunt like wearing your hunting clothes in your scent-contaminated vehicle. Unless you have somehow made your vehicle's interior completely scent free, I don't recommend getting dressed beforehand.

I like putting on a scent free base layer first. These base layer materials play a huge part in controlling any body heat and keeping you dry. Next I will put on my outside layer followed by a dousing down of a scent neutralizing spray. I will spray all my clothes, any fanny packs, my equipment, and anything going to the stand with me. It is also advised to wear scent control gloves and a head garment of some type, and always wear rubber boots.

Now if you begin to get warm or sweat, the base layer will wick the sweat off your skin and will pass it through itself where it is then absorbed by the next layer. This keeps you dry, warm, and scent free. Sweat is a hunter's enemy. On hot days I may not button up or put on my gloves and mask until I get to the stand for fear of getting too hot. Walking slow and taking your time is your best bet.

Once you hit the stand check the wind to be sure you are set up right. I recommend then spraying a breath neutralizer in your mouth and even popping in a piece of hunter's gum. I truly believe, in the right situation, a big buck can smell what you had for breakfast on your breath if you are not careful.

Too many hunters will not take all of these necessary steps and won't even realize they are cutting themselves short. When hunting the elusive whitetail it is best to take advantage of every opportunity. Why not increase your chances? I see guys wearing their hunting clothes in their vehicles and then getting out and spraying down with scent neutralizer or showering properly but then throwing on their hunting coveralls that have been hanging in the garage all week; not good.

Making some type of effort is better than making no effort at all. But playing the wind and following these hunting scent control tips will increase your chances of downing a trophy-sized animal this hunting season.

For more information call Camp Hydaway at 434-592-6284