

# 2017 Ken Middleton Memorial Youth Pheasant Hunt

## Final Report



The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Ken Middleton Memorial Youth Pheasant was scheduled for January 6-7 and 20-21, 2017 at Chauncey Ranch YMCA Camp's High Desert Hunt Club near Mayer. 40 youth each weekend, ages 10-17, participate in a sporting clays shoot and pheasant hunt. Participants from across the state are chosen through a random draw of names submitted by Hunter Education Instructors from their top students during the year. Approximately 400 are nominated.

On Friday, the volunteers that will participate in the Saturday hunt with the youth, participate in an orientation that includes role playing in the various roles they will be providing for the kids. Bird handlers, flushers, and mentors rotate through the respective roles and have the opportunity to shoot 2 hen pheasants.

On Saturday, each youth participant (in groups of 10) goes through a safety orientation prior to going to the sporting clays range where they are coached by certified shotgun instructors before going to the fields. Two students are assigned to a field where, with the help of a professional dog handler, flusher, and two certified hunter education instructors, they have the opportunity to hunt six rooster pheasant. Most of them harvested one or more pheasants.

This year's event was organized and run by AZ Chapter of NWTF, Chauncey Ranch High Desert Hunt Club, and Arizona Outdoor Sports, Inc. with administrative support by AZGFD.

### Financial Sponsors

Arizona Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation	\$5000
AZ State Chapter, NWTF	\$5000
Safari Club, Phoenix Chapter	\$2500

Sponsor's logos and banners were prominently displayed. During the safety briefing, participants and parents were informed of the sponsoring organizations. Each participant received a goodie bag that included a sheet listing the sponsors and their contact information .



While the first weekend went off without a hitch, the second hunt was canceled due to rain, snow, and a flooded Agua Fria river crossing. With the logistics and volunteer scheduling problems, the canceled hunt will not be rescheduled this year. Rather, the participants were notified that they will automatically be selected for next year's hunt.

**January 6-7 Data**

Participants: 30 males and 10 females

Adults present with participants: 55

Volunteers: 50

**Expenses**

YMCA (facility rental and food)	\$1500
High Desert Hunt Club (pheasants)	\$2632
AZ Outdoor Sports (shot shells and clay targets)	\$1170
Dog Handlers (5)	\$1000
Volunteer Recognition	<u>\$ 960</u>
	\$7262

Since the second weekend was canceled, refunds to the sponsoring organizations are being made in the same percentage as their contribution.

AZSFWC	\$2095.20
AZ NWTF	\$2095.20
SCI Phoenix	\$1047.60

### Photo Gallery



Volunteers



(Most of) Lucky Hunters



## Shotgun coaching

