



## ROOKIE SPORTSMAN PROGRAM

The Rookie Sportsman Program (RSP) is designed to take families or individuals that have never hunted before, pair them with a Wildlife Officer mentor, and expose them to the world of hunting in Colorado over the course of the yearlong program. Although the focus of the program is hunting, there are also opportunities to learn how to fish and experience other outdoor skills. Each family or individual will have a Wildlife Officer as their mentor over the course of the program, as well as experienced hunt masters assisting with some of the hunts. You do not need equipment, firearms or gear to get started in the RSP.

The RSP starts in March with a Hunter Education class and ends in January with a banquet hosted by the RSP families. The Hunter Education class is just for the participants of the program and is designed to provide more time for discussion and questions. There are classes planned at least once a month from March through the end of January. Sometimes these are organized events such as the hunter education class, overnight events like a dove hunt, and other times they are day hunts with one of your mentors. Participants are expected to make the majority of these opportunities, although you can pick and choose events to meet your specific interests. In addition to the time required, there is a financial consideration as well. Although participants will have the opportunity to borrow firearms (shotguns, rifles and archery equipment), most find that they begin buying equipment during the course of the class. You will also need to purchase the required licenses for the species you are interested in hunting. Occasionally there may also be fees for camping or entrance to state parks.

If you are interested in applying or have more questions, please contact Steve Cooley at 719-227-5284. Applications are due February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

### 2016 Class Schedule

March 12-13	Hunter Education Class – Part I, Colorado Springs
April 2-3	Hunter Education Class - Part II & apply for big game licenses, Colorado Springs
April 16-May 31	Turkey hunts. 1-2 (or more) day hunts to be planned with your mentor
May 14	Range day- shoot rifles and practice marksmanship

June 4-5                   Camping, outdoor cooking and survival at Mueller SP

June 18-19               Fishing weekend and campout, location Lake Pueblo State Park

July 9-10                 Fly fishing on the Arkansas River

August 6                 Range day-shoot rifles and practice marksmanship

August 7                 Archery day, Cheyenne Mountain State Park

September 9-12       Shotgun class & dove hunt at South Republican SWA,

September 24         Field dressing, meat processing class, Cheyenne Mountain State Park

October-January       Big game hunting with mentors

January 28              Banquet

