

Northeastern's Hunter Safety Team Aims for Top Spot



Northeastern's Hunter Safety Season did not begin according to plan due to new rules and guidelines due to COVID-19, and the middle school team had to quickly acclimate and adjust to different expectations. Sponsor Ms. Jessica Gordon and her team of students were all glad to make those changes so that the group could look forward to a degree of normalcy and fulfill their plan to be competitive. All involved have been overwhelmed with excitement.

Hunter safety competitions showcase students' skills in areas such as shooting and outdoor knowledge. For students, hunter safety practice and competition is a time with their like-minded friends and something to look forward to each week. Practice began in December - a full three months later than usual. With a briefer season the team wondered if they could reach the level of competitiveness that they collectively aspired to, and the students put in extra efforts to become the best sportsmen and sportswomen possible.

As a result of their intense efforts, some students achieved their personal best scores at practices and competitions. The team battled through the required changes and finished with a first place finish in the District 5 Youth Hunter Skills tournament. This qualified the team to compete in the North Carolina Youth Hunter Skills tournament which will occur on Saturday, April 24, 2021. Northeastern's team will compete against the top eight "junior" teams in the state.

During the season, eighth grade student Austin Williams achieved his personal goal of becoming the "top individual" by scoring the highest in all four events. Williams was just one example of students doing their best toward success for the team. Northeastern's Hunter Safety Team credits the support of the school, central services, community, and the North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission for the opportunities made available to students through hunter safety competition.

