

BIG COUNTRY GUIDE TRAINING

A division of Big Country Outfitters

Big Country guide training is the only guide course of its kind in Canada that is dedicated to producing top quality big game guides. Our focus is to teach all the basic skills required to become a guiding superstar. The instructors are seasoned guides and outfitters with decades of knowledge and experience, each specializing in one or more aspects of hunting and guiding. We bring in only 10 students per class, with our spotlight on the quality of guides and not the quantity. Students can enroll at anytime, however limiting the numbers and operating on a first come first served basis, they are encouraged to book right away. We have a minimum age requirement of 19 years old (unless otherwise with parental consent) and good physical and mental health is a must, due to the nature of this course and the guiding lifestyle. Attendance is obviously important as well as student conduct; anyone uncooperative will be dismissed without refund.

Students can expect to spend some time in a class room atmosphere as well as outside in a hands-on environment. Time out on the trail practicing skills is another essential part. There is a lot of information that will be covered in a relatively short amount of time; we encourage students to help out one another and to spend time after hours working at honing their skills. The basic class schedule would run from breakfast at 7:00 am, classes during the day, and end with dinner at 6:30pm (this is a rough timeline that could change from time to time). We are committed to the students that are driven to becoming top notch guides, this is not a course for those looking for an adventure vacation (there are places that cater to folks looking for a little adventure). Graduates that attain the necessary skills will be eligible for job placement in the form of job lead referrals. While on the course students will stay at Hidden Lake Ranch. We do encourage students to bring their own vehicle (we do not allow the use of personal ATV's).

Basic course outline:

- An introduction and what it means to become a big game guide.
- Knowing the laws and rules pertaining to guiding and hunting.
- Responsibilities of a professional guide.
- Big game guiding techniques
- Trophy care and capping
- Guiding clients
- Horsemanship/packing/basic foot care
- Basic wilderness survival
- Firearms safety
- Guiding equipment
- Securing a job in the industry

We are the "Real Deal" and students coming to us can expect to be immersed in the guiding lifestyle and traditions.

(we reserve the right to change the basic course if needed)

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(DBA Big Country Outfitters)

Enrollment Application

(please print, then photocopy for your records)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province _____

Age: _____ Weight: _____ Height: _____

Any physical disabilities/problems: _____

Taking medication? _____

Food Allergies: _____

Horse experience: _____

Hunting experience: _____

Course Dates: _____

Emergency Contact info: _____

21 day course: I agree to pay \$3600 CAD, to Big Country Outfitters. Enclosed is a deposit of \$1800, the balance will be paid 30 days before the start date of the course, unless otherwise prearranged.

Terms: All funds are to be paid in Canadian funds. Deposits are non-refundable but are transferable to another course date.

Assumption of risk: The activities that will be undertaken during this course are commonly known to have various risks natural to them. I know and willingly accept those risks associated with the course. I will not hold Mike Hawkrige, Big Country guide training, or any guides/instructors, responsible for loss, injuries, or damages, as a direct or indirect result of my participation in those activities.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

After completing this application please send back , or call for fax info.

Gear List

Three ring binder + large and small note pads + pens/pencils
Personal toiletries
Sleeping bag good for up to -10 degrees
High quality waterproof boots
Camp shoes
Personal blister kit (band-aids, moleskin)
Jacket-medium
Rain gear
Hat and gloves
Large backpack + day pack
Knife- skinning as well as small blade for caping
Bug repellent
Flashlight
Water bottle

Optional Gear

Camera
Binoculars
Spotting Scope
Head lamp/sunglasses
Thermarest pad
Fishing gear + licence
Range finder
Multi tool
Compass and/of GPS

Students can bring their own horse equipment (saddle/bridle/pad/etc.), however the gear will be approved by us before used with our horses

Final note

This course is meant to be both fun and informative. Typically the students will make new life long friendships and memories. I feel that the entire time spent with us must be a positive experience. If we are not learning and laughing, I'm not doing my job properly. The atmosphere is very family-like, and we look forward each year to the new group of folks we get to spend time with. That all said, we do have the reputation of producing top-notch guides and will continue doing so. Thanks, DFTQ/Mike Hawkrige.