

Code of Ethics

MAKING GOOD CHOICES



PURPOSE:

To help students understand proper ethical choices when hunting.



PROCESS:

1. Aldo Leopold was a conservationist in the early 1900s. He was influential in the development of modern environmental ethics and in the movement for wilderness conservation. His ethics of nature and wildlife conservation had a profound impact on the environmental movement. He emphasized biodiversity and ecology and was a founder of the science of wildlife management. Using the quote below, guide a discussion about how ethics are formed and the different types (medical, teaching etc.). Give examples of hunters who probably didn't have good ethics.

2. Ethics deal with values relating to human conduct. Hunting has two kinds of laws. One that is written and enforced by an officer and one that is unwritten. The second is an ethical code of honor that guide the actions of a true sportsman. A few examples of hunter ethics are listed below. Also cross-reference with pages 65-67 in the *Today's Hunter in Idaho* manual.

- Ethical hunters know their shooting ability.
- They respect their quarry before and after the shot.
- An ethical hunter follows the "fair chase" policy.
- They never take more game than they can use.
- They try for a quick, clean kill.
- An ethical hunter makes every possible effort to avoid wounding a game animal.
- An ethical hunter's driving force is the thrill of the hunt, not how much can be shot.
- Ethical hunters clean game quickly and skillfully.

2. Have students create their own personal code of hunting ethics. List on a piece of paper 6 codes that they will honor when hunting. Optional: Use the following copy master to have them create a "Coat of Arms" to represent their ethics. In each box they will illustrate their code.



WRAP UP:

3. Ask for volunteers to share the code of ethics that they created.

Ethical behavior is doing the right thing when no one else is watching - even when doing the wrong thing is legal.

Aldo Leopold

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MY CODE OF HUNTING ETHICS

