

The George Knox Memorial Boot Camp Vincent Ranch

This year was even better than last year. We had 124 attend the camp, 30 junior novice predator hunter, 38 adult novice predator hunters, 18 hunting mentors, 15 volunteers supporting the camp, and 23 family members who did not hunt. This was an increase of 30 novice hunters over last year.

The camp officially started on Saturday August 11th, but we fed dinner to anyone who showed up on Friday. Saturday morning, some novices were taken out at sunrise for several stands, my two novices and myself called in 2 coyotes on 3 stands but missed them both.



After breakfast, served by Youth Outdoors Unlimited, a 5 hour predator seminar was presented to all participants. This included safe hunting practices, predator hunting basics, a talk on wolf conservation given by Mike Godwin, a talk on fur trapping by Southwest Fur Harvesters, and a presentation by Ken Clay on Unit 4A and coexisting with ranchers. After the seminar, we broke out and matched mentors with novices. This was a challenge as we had 30 more novice hunters this year than we did last year and we were short mentors!

Saturday afternoon was spent having the novices practice what they had learned that day. Two coyotes were called in and harvested that afternoon, both called in by novices.

Dinner was served as the novices bragged about their success, followed by a prize giveaway for every junior present. Knives made by John Toner of Continental Knives were given away, one to one lucky junior novice hunter and another to was raffled to anyone who worked as a mentor or support staff.

Sunday morning was devoted to predator calling, with one coyote called by a mentor and harvested by a novice. The camp ended with breakfast after the hunting.

The partnership that made the camp possible consisted of Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc., Youth Outdoors Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation, AZ Elk Society, AZ Game and Fish Dept, SWFH, Cabella's, Sportsman's Warehouse, Randall's, Continental Knives, Orion Calls, and Circle Signs. All provided support, grants, donations, etc.

Ken Eaton
Phoenix Varmint Callers, Inc.