



# COLORADO

## Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Staunton State Park  
Pine, CO 80470  
P 303.816.0912  
Staunton.park@state.co.us

### Hunter Education at Staunton

All, I wanted to provide you with information related to how CPW hosts and conducts education classes related to Hunters in Colorado and how Staunton would like to support these efforts.

As part of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife mission we offer numerous programs that aim to guide future stewards of Colorado's Natural Resources. One such program is Hunter Education. This program is required by Colorado law for any person born after January 1, 1949 in order for them to legally apply for and purchase a Colorado Hunting license. These courses, led by Colorado Parks and Wildlife Officers, teach hunters to be safe, legal and responsible. Students learn; wildlife management, Colorado Laws and Regulations, ethics of hunting, wildlife identification and firearm safety. The traditional classroom courses consist of at least 10 hours in person, a written test and a live practical in the field.

Historically, residents in the Grant, Pine, Buffalo Creek, Kittredge, Bailey, Conifer, Pleasant Park and the Aspen Park areas did not have a consistent facility locally to attend classroom hunter education and relied on private lands or facilities in Denver to complete the practical field portion. In the early stages of designing the Staunton visitor center, conversations with our Area Wildlife Managers and District Wildlife managers, focused on an educational classroom that would provide this resource. We aimed to not only provide a safe space but a world class center for education.

With this in mind we are designing and implementing a location for our Hunter Education students to conduct their field practical, which will consist of demonstrating safe and appropriate firearm handling. The only firearm that will be utilized at this location will be a .22 caliber long rifle. CPW Officers will utilize modified ammunition that consists of minimal grain which significantly reduces the velocity, the distance of travel and the noise produced. The location will have a significant back stop along with bullet catch boxes. Students will be no further than 20 yards from their target and the backstop. Individual students will conduct these practicals under the direct supervision of a CPW Officer. The location we chose is not an area open to the public and is located behind 2 lockable gates. This area was chosen because it also minimizes the impact to the public yet is still accessible for our Officers and students during the course.

I want to ensure you that all precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of everyone involved in and around Staunton, including the Elk Falls residence. This location will only be utilized for Hunter Education. It will not be used for public use outside of this activity. If anyone has questions or concerns we will be hosting a demonstration of the Hunter education course and the firearm that will be utilized. Because the location is not complete, a date will be determine soon and we will communicate with the Elk Falls POA board to notify those interested.

Zach Taylor  
Park Manager  
Staunton State Park

