

CREATE A SHOOTING LANE

CREATE A CLEAR PATH BETWEEN YOU AND A TARGET



This activity can be conducted indoors or outdoors.

WHAT YOU NEED

- A chair, fallen log or any other object participants can stand or sit on
- Small branches with leaves, sticks and twigs of varying sizes
- Box, cone or 3D target
- Laser pointer

GETTING READY

Gather a pile of branches and twigs of various sizes. Make sure some have leaves and some don't. Find a large space where everyone can spread out and hold up their branches and twigs. Place a chair or fallen log for a participant to stand or sit on in the front of the area. Set a cone or other object (target) about 10- to 15-yards from the "hunter".

Adapted from *Explore Bowhunting 2nd edition* pgs. 69-71

LET'S GET STARTED

- 1 Explain to participants that they are going to create a mock forest.
- 2 Spread out the participants in the space between the chair and target. Tell them they will be representing "trees." Instruct them to hold up their hands and arms, creating branches. Have each participant hold up the branches and twigs, as shown in the image.
- 3 Once you've created the forest, pick someone to be the "hunter" and have him or her stand or sit on a chair in the center. If you want to simulate a treestand situation, have the participant stand on the chair. If you want to simulate using a blind, have the participant sit.

4 Place a target, such as a box, cone or 3D target, in the "forest." Place the target so no large obstacles such as tree trunks are between it and the hunter. Make sure the "trees" have some branches obscuring the target.

5 Ask the participant who is playing the "hunter" to see if there is a clear path to the target. Have them use the laser pointer to define the path by pointing at the target.

6 If there is no clear shooting lane (which should be the case if the participants created enough barriers), ask the "hunter" what he or she would do to create a clear path.

7 Explain that they can remove branches by telling a "tree" to lower its limbs (arms) to clear a shooting lane. Challenge them to remove as few branches as possible. The more you remove the easier it is for the "deer" to see the "hunter" first.

After a "shot" is clear and taken. Reset the forest with a new archer.



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ADAPTATIONS

Instead of using a laser pointer, use a piece of string attached to the target that the “hunter” can hold.

Setting up at a community event center where you are unable to remove tree branches? Set up a chair near a tree and number the lower branches. Rather than removing them, the participant can determine which branches would need to be removed, and then discuss why they selected those branches.

Relate this activity to that of wildlife photography. Show a picture of an animal covered by branches versus one in the open.

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