A Picture is Worth 1,000 Words

What will your hunting photo say about you?

Telling non-hunters the right story through your hunting photos is critical to increasing cultural support for legal, regulated hunting. Your photos say a lot about you and your adventure and are a way to share your experience and your pride of being a hunter. Capture that pride with the right photo. You never know where that photo might end up as it makes the rounds on social media.

Here are some tips to help you tell your story:

- **Be respectful of your harvest. All game animals and birds should be honored.**
  - Don't sit on top of, kneel on or "bear hug" your animal.
  - Tuck the animal's tongue in its mouth and clean any blood off the animal and yourself.
  - Cover any visible wounds or crop the photo to omit unnecessary blood or damage.
  - Position the animal so that its head is upright. If you plan to be in the photo, hold up its head.
  - Don't photograph the animal when it is on a 4-wheeler or in the bed of a truck.
- **Help a photo to tell your story. Don't just show it or post it on social media.**
  - Write a short description to accompany the photo. Even just a few thoughtful words such as "Thankful," With all my respect" or "Great memories" help to set the right tone.
  - Share what you will do with the meat, such as using it to feed your family and friends or donating it to feed those less fortunate.
- **Share that your hunting adventure is about the journey.**
  - Show photos of your hunt preparation, the travel, your treestand placement, the outdoor setting and the game and non-game species you observed while remaining undetected.
  - Tell a story about time spent with friends and/or family.

Other considerations:

- Make sure your firearm is unloaded and the action is open in all photos.
- Remember you are representing a whole community of hunters. What may seem appropriate to you at the time may not be to someone who sees your photo later and does not know the backstory.
- Is that photo you are about to post on social media how you want people to view you for the rest of your life?

NRA HUNTERS LEADERSHIP FORUM