

## What to Bring

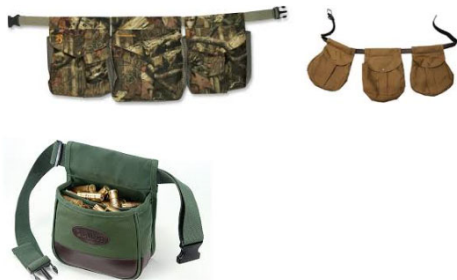
You need a hunting license (buy on or after Aug 15<sup>th</sup>). If you also fish, you're better off getting the Super Combo which ran ~\$70 last year. It has all the relevant hunting and fishing 'stamps' or 'endorsements' (except for duck hunting). If you only buy a hunting license, be sure to have them add the Texas Migratory Bird Endorsement. Suggest buying online or going to Academy because the folks at Wal-Mart don't always know what they're doing. Make sure they ask you how many doves you killed last season so you can be HIP certified (Harvest Information Program). Wal-Mart often forgets to do this.

**Important** – if you or your child were born after 9/2/1971 and you've never done so, you must take the Hunter Education course (~\$15 – classroom or online). If you don't take it, you can elect to get a 1-time deferral which costs ~\$10 (you need proof that you took this election – or proof that you took the course). If you defer you still need a hunting license. And if you defer you must be 'accompanied' while hunting which means being in speaking distance w/another licensed hunter. Check out this link: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/hunter-education>

Get a hunting bucket or stool. These are handy because they can carry ammo, birds, drinks, etc. and give you a chance to sit...we'll be in the fields hours at a time. I personally use a bucket with a swivel top.



Seriously consider getting a hunting belt. I use one of the 3-bag versions putting shells in the left and right, and birds in the back. Alternatively, you can use a single bag...helps to have those shotgun shells ready.



For shotgun shells, regardless of whether you're shooting a 12 ga or 20 ga, get either size 7 ½ or 8 shot - that's the size of the BBs. For the length of the shell, get 2 ¾ inches. A couple of the guns I have shoot 3" shells but that's not necessary. Also, don't bother with getting Express or Super-X. If you open the box in the store (which is fine) you want the shells with the small section of 'brass'. The Express ones have about an inch of brass, a whole lot more boom, leading to a much more black-and-blue shoulder. Not necessary for what we're hunting. Lots of different brands to consider, all do the same as far as I'm concerned. Below is a pic of the 2 types of brass.



I recommend buying no less than a case for each hunter. A case is 10 boxes of 25 shells each.

Also bring non-reflective sunglasses, a hat, sunscreen, and bug spray. I usually wear green or tan fishing shirts. Dark T-shirts are fine. Full camo isn't necessary, but a lot of guys will wear it. I also just wear jeans - some guys will wear camo pants - again, not necessary. Doves don't see color as much as they see movement. Being still is more important than being decked out in camo head to foot.

Academy will have everything you need...Wal-Mart will have most of what you need.