

Testimonial – Reina Seraaj

Before attending the Women Hunt™ Program through the Wild Sheep Foundation, I knew nothing of hunting except that I had a desire to learn and wanted to go for years. Back in 2018, I even completed the Hunter Safety Course. Yet, that was the extent I had pursued hunting.

Because even after having completed the course, I did not know where to begin. I had never seen the process of preparing for a hunt, an actual hunt, nor what happens after harvesting an animal. I did not have a support system to show me the way and felt the few individuals I asked were not interested in being of help. With it being something new and unfamiliar, hunting was something too intimidating to do on my own. Even now, there is some trepidation to set out without a buddy, for I know questions will still randomly occur and I want to be sure I am properly educated.

When I had first seen Women Hunt™ listed on Facebook, I was very interested, but did not intend to apply. Instead, I reached out via email to inquire whether the event would take place annually, hoping to be able to apply the following year. With having very little shooting experience, I did not feel I would do well. I wanted to take the year to practice to ensure that when the time came I could quickly and humanely take an animal's life.

To my surprise, I received a phone call explaining that I needed no prior experience; the program was created for women exactly like me -- to teach the basic skills needed for us to be successful and encourage us to get out there. I was assured the individuals training me were experts and I would, without a doubt, possess the knowledge and ability to hunt. That phone call provided me the courage to request and submit an application. I am so glad I did because I was selected!

My experience with this program, and during training at FTW Ranch, was nothing short of amazing. Firstly, I could not help but notice the diversity of the women who surrounded me. I was in awe while listening to their backgrounds and found it so interesting how we all somehow managed to end up part of the Women Hunt™ Program. Though it did not take me long to realize I could not have been more fortunate to have been able to partake on this journey with them, for the energy and excitement among us spurred good times and allowed us to develop friendships.

The training itself was unlike anything I have ever encountered. In such a short period, I learned so much. Not only about hunting, but about myself...my expectations, limitations, capabilities. More important than knowledge, I gained confidence. It has been quite some time since I have been this excited about anything.

A spark ignited within me, and I am forever grateful to the Wild Sheep Foundation for this opportunity. Since returning home, I have begun to look into local resources and network, continuing to educate myself for this lifestyle change I am committed. With my newfound skills and connections, I hope to become ingrained within the hunting community. I hope to become familiar enough with hunting that I eventually feel confident enough to mentor other women who feel as I have felt. It would be incredible to be able to pay it forward and contribute to the growth of a supportive community of women hunters.