

Taxidermy Training Academy

Our Mission: To provide each student with the knowledge necessary to mount lifelike animals that they will be proud to hang on their own wall.

Our Motto: Excellence in the Ordinary

Overview:

Taxidermy Training Academy (TTA) offers a range of classes and courses to provide hands on training in the art of taxidermy.

Students may choose to do a workshop for a few days, mastering a certain area of taxidermy, or take the full six week all-inclusive course.

Workshops would range from 1 day, up to a week, and students would work on just one item or area. Workshops would encompass areas such as eye setting, ear butts, molding and casting, bird anatomy, fish painting, and so on. These classes are designed to help an already experienced taxidermist to excel in a certain field or area, or to help in an area that he/she is struggling.

Mini courses would vary from 1 to 4 week courses. This would also include those students who are not able to take the time for a full 6 week class, but would like to do the full course in sections. Students may want to only cover one or two certain areas of taxidermy, such as only working on birds and fish, or concentrating on mammals. TTA will try to tailor a class to meet your needs and expectations.

A 6 week course will be offered to train students in all areas of taxidermy, including birds, fish, lifesize mammals, and game heads. This is an all encompassing comprehensive course that will leave students with the knowledge and experience necessary to start their own taxidermy career.

This is a hands-on class, with students doing the work of mounting animals in a first class facility under the guidance of a master taxidermist. Students will have the opportunity to mount at least 6-8 different specimens during the course of the class, depending on ability and pace.

Students will also be given instruction in the areas of tanning, skinning methods, airbrushing and painting, finish work, habitat construction, and basics of business. Students are encouraged to request specific instruction in areas of interest and necessity particular to their needs. Classes will be kept small to give students the most attention of the teacher.

Tuition:

Class rates vary according to length of stay. The longer you train at TTA, the less expensive it becomes. Below is a list of our basic rates. TTA is able to tailor a class to meet all of your needs and budgets. **Call or email us today to discuss your options.**

Daily: \$300/day

Weekly: \$1250/wk

2 Weeks: \$2450

4 Weeks: \$4700

6 Weeks: \$6750

Add'l Weeks: \$1000/wk

Staff:

Your instructor will be Daryl Keyes, owner of Pheasant Hollow Taxidermy. Daryl is an award winning master taxidermist with 35 years of experience in all areas of taxidermy. Daryl has been a full time taxidermist for almost ten years, and has mentored and taught numerous students over the last decade. Daryl is able to give you the mechanics of how to put together a quality mount, as well as those many small details that will set your work apart from the norm.

Additional staff may be available to help with some areas. These will all be employees of Pheasant Hollow, and are trained by Daryl. Classes are kept small so that you can optimize your time with Daryl and learn from his vast experience.

Schedule:

Next 6 week class is Jan. 22-Mar. 2, 2018. 3 spots still available
Next 2 week mini course: TBA. Contact us if you are interested

Classes run from 8a.m. to 6p.m. Monday through Friday.
Saturdays are available for daily classes. No classes on Sunday.

What is included:

Classes include all supplies and materials, excluding specimens and forms.

Each student will receive a tool kit which includes most basic necessary tools for taxidermy. (For 2,4, and 6 wk classes) This kit has over a \$300 value!

All other tools and equipment will be provided.

Each student will have their own work area and all necessary tools and materials.

All handouts and information materials will be for the student to keep.

What is not included:

Students will need to provide their own specimens for mounting. If you need specimens for mounting, TTA will have specimens available for purchase.

Contact TTA ahead of time to arrange for the purchase of mounting specimens and the ordering of necessary forms and supplies.

Mammals need to be tanned ahead of time, as time constraints do not allow for tanning within the class. Tanning will be covered, but there is not sufficient time to tan all specimens and get them mounted in the time allowed. We are trying to cover as much material as possible, and put as much information into your hands as we can.

Students will need to provide housing arrangements during their stay. There are several hotels nearby which provide weekly rates. There is an apartment available at the TTA facility, which will be rented on a first come basis. Rates for the on site apt. is \$100/wk. Students will need to provide food for your meals. Snacks and beverages will be available for students throughout the day, but you will need to

bring your lunch. We recommend bringing a lunch, as opposed to running out for food, to maximize your time in the class. A refrigerator and microwave are available.

Policies:

Requirements for attending TTA:

1. Must be at least 18 years old, or a recent high school graduate. Students under 18 must have parent or guardian permission, and in some cases present.
2. Must be able to read and write english.
3. Must have basic motor skills and ability to work with your hands. You don't need to be an expert at anything, you just need to have a willingness to learn!

Deposits:

TTA requires a deposit to schedule for a class. Deposit is 20% of the class tuition. Balance due before the class begins, or on the first day of class. No refunds of deposits. No exceptions. If you are not able to attend a class, your deposit will be applied to a rescheduled class, provided there are openings available.

If you are not able to complete a class, tuition will be prorated and a refund will be given or applied to a later class. No refunds if you have completed 3 weeks.

Discounts available for military, fire, police, and paramedic personnel.

You do not need to bring anything to attend TTA. If you choose to purchase mounting specimens from TTA, everything else will be provided. If you come with an open mind and are willing to work hard to learn, TTA will teach you all that you need to become an accomplished taxidermist. Where you take it from there, will be decided by your dedication and determination.

TTA does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, handicap, or ability.

TTA provides a first class facility, with a nearly new studio and workshop. TTA has over 1500 sq. ft of work area, and 1000 sq. ft of showroom, office and bathroom facilities. One full bath, and one half bath restrooms on site, with a mini kitchenette available for the use of students. Top of the line tools, equipment, materials, and supplies are handy for the completion of your mounts. A large inventory is maintained to meet all of your needs.

Conduct during your class must be appropriate. We are all mature adults, and should treat each other with mutual respect. Refrain from excessive foul language, and suggestive or lewd behavior. Most of all, have fun and enjoy working on God's creatures.

Students are required to complete a minimum number of mounts while attending TTA. A typical student will complete at least one lifesize mammal, 2-3 gameheads, 2-3 birds, and 2-3 fish. Students are expected to keep up with the pace of the class, and not fall behind on projects.

Attendance is important. If you miss a day or two of class, or are constantly tardy, you may fall way behind and not be able to keep up with your mounts. Classes are Monday through Friday (8-6), but make-up or additional work may be done on Saturday, provided arrangements are made with the instructor. Most students will be so excited to get to class, that this won't be a problem.

Paper worksheets and information sheets will be handed out throughout the course, and these are for the students to keep. Notebooks will also be provided, and students are encouraged to take extensive notes. We will be covering a lot of material, and it will be hard to take it all in. Students are allowed to video record during lectures and demonstrations..

References are available on request. Contact us today for an application to TTA.