

BLUE SKY OUTDOORSMAN

HUNT • FISH • EXPLORE

OPENING DAY CHECKLIST

Make sure the morning you waited all year for doesn't get wrecked by something you could have fixed Tuesday.

THE WEEK BEFORE : EQUIPMENT

- ☐ **Zero your rifle or confirm your bow is tuned**
One range trip. Three shots off a rest. Adjust, confirm, done. We owe the animal a clean shot.
- ☐ **Inspect your safety harness**
Every strap, buckle, rope, and carabiner. Replace anything showing wear or age. Non-negotiable.
- ☐ **Wash outer layers in scent-free detergent**
Store in a sealed bag. Do not wear them to the gas station on opening morning.
- ☐ **Replace all batteries**
Rangefinder, headlamp, trail cameras, GPS. Dead batteries are entirely preventable.
- ☐ **Inspect arrows or ammunition**
Spin-test arrows for straightness. Check for cracks. Confirm broadhead flight matches field points.
- ☐ **Sharpen your knife and pack your recovery kit**
Game bags, gloves, marking tape (where legal), and a basic first-aid kit.

THE NIGHT BEFORE: PACK EVERYTHING

- ☐ **Lay out every piece of clothing you will wear**
From base layer to outer shell. Set it out where you will see it in the dark.
- ☐ **Put your license and tags inside your shirt pocket, check twice**
Physical or digital, confirmed and accessible. Not in the truck. In the pocket.
- ☐ **Stage your thermos by the coffee maker**
Fill it the night before if possible. Opening morning is not the time to wait for coffee.
- ☐ **Set your boots by the door**
Not in the truck. Not somewhere. By the door. Ready to step into.
- ☐ **Pack your bag completely**
Pull rope, wind checker, calls, rangefinder, release, headlamp, food, water. Zip it shut.
- ☐ **Confirm your access route**
Know every turn in the dark. If you need to walk it once more, do it before dark tonight.

OPENING MORNING: BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE TRUCK

- ☐ **Check the wind direction**
If the wind is wrong for your stand, the stand is not huntable. Have a backup option ready.
- ☐ **Confirm your entry route is clear and quiet**
Walk slowly. The deer you bump on the way in are the deer you will not see from the stand.
- ☐ **Apply scent control**
Spray down, check for foreign odors (gas, food, smoke). Scent discipline starts at the truck.
- ☐ **Confirm your phone is on silent, not vibrate**
Silent. Not vibrate. Vibrate on a metal treestand is loud enough to educate every deer in the area.

FOR THE RECORD

Date: _____ Location: _____ Wind: _____ Temp: _____

What happened:
