



Taxidermy Tech
Vocational Training and Mentorship



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Visit our Taxidermy Studio website at www.expressionsofwildlife.com



GENERAL
INFORMATION
SHEET

July
2026

New prices listed
here are effective
1 September.



See below for information on the program. Please feel free to call us if you have any questions or you want to talk more about your taxidermy goals.

About our Program

We are a full-time commercial Taxidermy Studio located in Pensacola Florida doing services for the public and conducting over 50 courses and workshops per year under the Taxidermy Tech program. We conduct mostly Basic Beginner Courses but we do run Intermediate and Advance Training Courses as required.

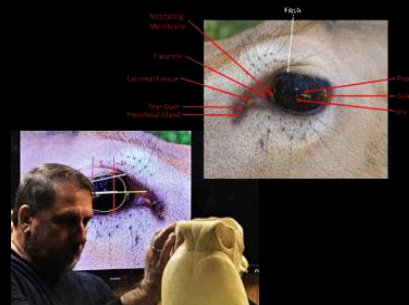
We have students that attend from all corners of the United States and International locations. The program speaks for itself. We do not exaggerate it into something it is not. The students who have attended do a much better job than we do of articulating the true benefits of attending through their testimonials.

First off you have to understand that there is no courses or workshop that is going to make you an expert. That is not our claim or that of anyone else that we know of that offers training professionally. To be considered an expert you are going to need a lot of experience and that is going to come if you put in the time. The same passion that motivates you to attend a formal course is the same passion that inspires you to put it all into practice when you get home. We can lead you to the right path but it is ultimately up to you to follow it.

Each course here is very specialized. Most of our courses are Basic Beginner in a one-on-one modular format.

Instructor: Student Ratio

Students can opt for a 1:1 setting...one student and 1 instructor. Because of the demand for slots and student/alumni requests we have changed the model to include options for 2 student classes working with 1 instructor. Two student classes are often preferred as a good pair will often compliment one another by generating additional discussion points and questions that are sometimes missed by one. It still has the feel of a 1 on 1 session.



With the exception of group sessions, our basic courses are scheduled coordinating the students availability with our available dates...you select a week you wish to attend and we deconflict it on our calendar.

We do not push you into multiple courses. We recommend taking only one course at a time (for example Waterfowl or Whitetail Deer)...come to your course, mount your specimens and learn the process...then go home and put what you learned into practice. This is a training AND mentorship program and you will always have a lifeline at Taxidermy Tech to call that can help you continue to navigate through your new skills and business venture. That is what we signed up for so we expect it and need for students to take advantage of that opportunity. Past students call , email or text virtually every day.

Booking

Our terms have changed. We have two categories of enrollee...Tentative and Confirmed. If you select a payment option in lieu of payment in full your first payment is due on enrollment. You have 48 hours once you finalize dates to make payment. We can not hold unsecured slots,\.

Payment Plan - Booking + 3 Payments

Payment is due in full on enrollment but we do offer financing with no finance charges or fees as long as your payments are made on time. Our payment option requires 1/3 to be paid on enrollment. The second payment is 1/3 of the total and is due 30 days prior to arrival. The final payment is made not later than 1 business day prior to the start of training. The payment dates published in the invoice for payment plans are NOT LATER THAN dates. You have up to that date to make the scheduled payment. If not paid by close of business on the scheduled NLT due date and you have not been granted an extension you will incur a late fee on the due amount added to your invoice. If your training begins on a Monday, your final payment would be due not later than close of business on the previous Monday. Any changes to this payment schedule must be approved. You must be paid in full prior to arrival for training. There are incentives for prepayment in full.

Course costs effective 1 September 2025

[illegible]

Specimens- If you have your own specimens, ie deer capes and antlers then that it is obviously not an additional expense. Specimens can be acquired and are sometimes donated. For the Deer course , capes and horns but not a significant expense. With the new Chronic Wasting Disease changes, we will have to make a determination on booking whether or not you can bring your own specimens. For the small waterfowl course we prefer you provide your own ducks but we can usually provide them free of charge. Wild birds are strictly regulated under the Federal Migratory Bird Act. Pen Raised Birds with Papers can be purchased. Most other specimens we can acquire at below market prices but if you are not providing your own specimens then it will be an additional expense, although not usually a significant one for the most common of species. Occasionally we have specimens donated.

Lodging- Lodging is the responsibility of the student. We no longer book lodging, however, we strongly recommend AirBnB or VRBO. Most of our students find lower rates and better more private accommodations from full houses to tiny houses to spare rooms.

Your Training Environment

Our primary work space is a 3000 SF warehouse located in a very busy commercial/industrial section of Northwest Pensacola. We have a student cubicle in the west side of the warehouse. There is a handicap equipped bathroom in the office. We have a 60-inch flat screen television in the office, another in the cubicle for reference and a computer available for use and wireless internet throughout the building.

We have a refrigerator, microwave, smoker, crockpot, Keurig and a regular coffee pot on site and keep the refrigerator well stocked with water, sodas, tea, sandwich food and snacks. Please make yourself at home...everything there is for you.

Taxidermy Tech Program Wall of Fame

Decisions

Once you decide that you would like to attend you will need to select dates. You can check our calendar under Schedule on the Taxidermy Tech website for availability. Keep in mind our calendar is meant to represent what is booked by name and course. It does not necessarily reflect what is available. A good rule of thumb is this...if you see 2 other scheduled courses during the week you select it is probably a full week. We have 3 instructors here in Pensacola but we try to only commit two at a time at the most. Send your requested dates to ken@citizensportsman.com. We can set up a time to talk if we have not already to determine the requirement for lodging and specimens. We will deconflict your dates with our schedule and get you booked. We book up to 12 months out.

Once the dates have been selected we will send you an Enrollment Packet via email. Everything you need to make a decision and get formally enrolled is in that email enrollment packet. Once you have reviewed and agreed to the proposal via email you can go to your invoice via our secure payment processing system and make your payment. You may pay in full, in part, or use the payment schedule we have provided. The payment schedule is a courtesy to help you break down your course costs into smaller more manageable parts.

If you use a payment option your first payment is due on enrollment. Your dates are not secured until that payment is made. You have 48 hours to make your enrollment payment. At that point your dates are available to other parties for booking. We have a high demand for dates so please be on time with your payments.

Second payment is due not later than 30 days from the start of your course.

The final payment is due by the last business day prior to the start of your course.

Pre-arrival

We know everyone is excited to get started and that enthusiasm may lead you to show up 30 minutes to an hour or more early but please try not to be too early...10 minutes or so is perfect. We ask everyone to please honor that request. This is also a Taxidermy studio so every morning (especially Monday) has the potential to be hectic. Monday morning is always key in getting my guys oriented on what they have to focus on during the week. We open at 9 AM Central time.

The address is 8929 Pensacola Blvd. We are in the InstaLoan complex directly across the street from Walmart and the Walmart Murphy's gas station. You can look for the big green and yellow InstaLoan sign and you should see our sign underneath...pull down into that complex all the way to the back right and you will see us.

We do have lunch here every day. We are more and more health conscious about what we are putting in to our bodies so salad is an everyday thing for us. We keep a lot of rabbit foods here to put together salads to include protein so if you like that kind of thing you will be in good company! We also have sandwich meat and cheese so if you prefer sandwiches it will be here and available for you. At least once or twice a week we will pressure pot some lean meat like pork loin or chicken breast. We have pretty much stopped ordering in pizza and other fast foods as it does not conform well to our health goals 😊 ! But there is always food and snacks and plenty of drinks from water and Gatorade to sodas and coffee. You are welcome to go offsite for lunch or bring your own if you prefer but you are certainly invited to eat with us. We try to all stop together and eat together every day, usually around 1230 PM for around 30 minutes.

Terms

Payment Schedule

The payment schedule options are Paid in Full on enrollment, 50/50 and 3 equal payments.

1. Your first full payment is due on enrollment. If your preferred dates are already inside that window and we have confirmed availability, your first payment is due immediately. Once you are inside the 60 day window the payment is non-refundable and non-negotiable. This is to protect our interests in the event of cancellation. Scheduling a student for a course reserves a slot that we may not be able to fill in the event of a late cancellation which can be costly. We will always work with you to reschedule as required.
2. Your second payment on the 3 payment plan is due not later than 30 days prior to the start of your resident training. At this time we will confirm and order any required specimens and materials. Please do not be late with your second payment. Material and specimen orders are time sensitive. If you see that you are going to be late, call us immediately.
3. The remaining balance due will be due on the last business day prior to the start of training. **YOU MUST BE PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO STARTING YOUR COURSE.**
4. Cancellations within 30 days from the start of the session will result in a refund less the 3 payment booking deposit/first payment. All cancellations must be in writing before refund will be issued. Refunds will be issued less expenses by company check within 2-4 weeks. Many acts of God, Nature (and employer) are out of your hands and ours. We will work with you to reschedule your training should the need arise.
5. We will not be held responsible for injury or illness during the conduct of the workshop on or off the premises where the training is conducted. We do have a medical waiver and will ask you to disclose any serious medical issues at the time of enrollment.
6. Invoices accept most major credit cards, debit cards and bank transfer. Bank transfers through the invoice are preferred and there is no service fee. Debit or credit card transactions will include a 2.9% processing fee that we pay to our processors. There will be a \$35 fee assessed on all returned checks. We do not accept Money Orders. Personal checks paid for booking deposits must clear before your time is locked and must be received according to the published payment schedule.

We have a high demand for training dates and limited training dates available so please confirm receipt and acceptance as soon as possible. Failure to do so may result in a loss of your slot.

You can use the "Pay Now" function on the invoice. If you have any questions or need assistance call us at (844) 945-327

Once your payment is made, your dates are scheduled on the calendar. If for some reason you have to change your dates we can work with you provided your new dates are not locked by another student.



www.taxidermytech.com



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Testimonials

I had a blast with Ken Darville at Taxidermy Tech this past week if your just getting started in taxidermy or have been doing it for years and want to step up your taxidermy to another level you need to give him a call he's a professional at it and a very good teacher give him a call and let him help you!!! Thanks again Ken!!!
Josh Glisson



If you are planning on learning the art of Taxidermy I highly recommend Ken Darville, you will not regret the decision! He's always there when and if you have questions even after you've gone home to hone the skills that he has taught you! Will be making more trips to see him in the future! Great guy, great atmosphere!
Cody Masterson

Ken is an awesome instructor and knows his taxidermy. When you leave the training and get home and find yourself doubting your work or asking yourself what needs to be done to this mount to make it look better or look right— Ken is always there to help you...shoot him a text or give him

a call he is always very helpful and I myself appreciate that. Brian and I look forward to coming back and taking another course in the near future!

Courtney Black

Ken has a gift for teaching people and making them understand the concepts of being a great taxidermist. If you are considering doing taxidermy please give him a call he will get you on the right path...From a beginner or a seasoned taxidermist Ken can take your abilities to another level. Taxidermy Tech is an awesome class that I highly recommend to anyone that is considering taxidermy.

Michael Lawson

The process that Taxidermy Tech offers makes it very easy to step through each principle and retain every ounce of knowledge gained. I would highly recommend this program for anyone who is interested in learning the art of taxidermy...my confidence level in my ability had far exceeded my expectations

David Johnson

I spent (a) week with Ken doing a 5 day Intermediate Whitetail Course. I had a great time. As soon as you walk in the door you feel at home. Being a deer taxidermist already I just wasn't satisfied with my work. Ken has great knowledge of taxidermy and is an exceptional teacher. Using his system I fixed every problem I had.

Danny Holderman

This past week was amazing, I thought I knew a lot but I was wrong...there was a lot of stuff I wasn't doing right but you got me in the right direction for sure... well worth it and thanks again!!

Ronnie Usher

This has to be the best 5 day course out there!! Ken Darville has a great method of breaking everything down so it is much easier to grasp. He makes your stay very comfortable and the one on one is the only way to go!! I had a blast while I was there I didn't want to leave! If I lived closer to Pensacola I would be trying to get a job with him and his team!! Great place all around to learn taxidermy. I will be back to learn other area's in taxidermy within the coming year!!

Shane Skinner

I just completed the week long basic whitetail class. In one word it was great. Ken is very detail oriented and definitely knows what he is doing and wants to teach people the techniques and concepts that will make people great taxidermist. I would recommend this class to anyone who is wanting to learn the trade and get a good foundation to work off of.

Chris Wilson

There aren't enough good things to say about this program. My expectations for the program were well surpassed and exceeded. I began this course with little knowledge of taxidermy, hoping to build a career out of it. Ken is one of the most patient and knowledgeable people I have ever met. His love for taxidermy and teaching is apparent in his skills. He has a gift of breaking down difficult concepts for beginners that always then apply the information as well as retain it. The hours were long in theory, but my time there flew by- I didn't want to leave at the end of the day or course. The atmosphere is very open and welcoming; by the end of the experience you feel completely at home with a bit of sadness for leaving. The resources he has for you are well thought out and complete. My favorite part of the experience is the bonding and memories I made there. I have no hesitation in reaching out to Ken with any issues or questions after my return home.
Matthew Matoy



I wanted to learn taxidermy and attempted the free online training you can find all over the internet on mounting deer. The only problem with this method is you can't ask questions and you don't know the experience level of the one teaching a lot of times. I finally committed to taking Ken's class and quickly realized it was the best decision by far. Not only does it give you the one on one, but you can ask all the questions that you want. Then, just because you're done with class, doesn't mean he is done with you. He leaves himself open to call, text, or email if you have any questions or problems. Believe me when I say that I have tested this option as I text him questions often and he is always more than willing to answer or help in any way he can. I told him he has the patience of Job. I will definitely be taking my next class with him when I am ready to move on to other critters. Without a doubt, 5 star rating!
Jamie Braxton

This was the best experience I have ever had in a taxidermy class. Ken truly takes an interest in making sure that you learn everything you can in the time you have. You feel like you are a friend and even a part of his family. He is so supportive leading up to the class and even after the class. He is always available to answer questions and help out. I cannot thank him enough for taking the time to share his craft.
Bryan Carden

I came here to take my business to the next level. I feel I have more than accomplished that. Ken showed me things and improved my technique, which has boosted my confidence and knowledge. I feel I am definitely ready to take my business to the next level. If you are wanting to learn taxidermy, or in my case need a little help to step up your game, Ken can absolutely help you out!!
Ivan Lemley

I highly suggest anyone looking to pursue taxidermy consider this program. I was beyond impressed by Ken's expertise and his methods of teaching. I definitely recommend the one-on-one guidance because it's focused and I felt like I gained a lot of useful knowledge during such a short period. I went into this endeavor with very little knowledge and left with a greater respect and understanding for this work of art. I am looking forward to attending more courses in the near future.

Wynston Atwood

The basic whitetail course I took with Ken was by far the best choice I've ever made in my Taxidermy career. The one on one training and little tips that you learn are keys to giving your mounts that live look. If your thinking about giving Taxidermy a shot as a career or even as a hobby I would highly recommend giving Ken a call! Not only do you get a 5-6 day course, Ken will always be willing to give advice or help out in anyway possible. Thank you Ken and Taxidermy Tech!

Chase Martin

Taking this course was one of the best business decisions I ever made. Ken has a knack for clearly and patiently helping you understand the ins and outs of taxidermy. I'm not a fast learner and having a one-on-one course instead of a packed "classroom" type course allowed me to work at my pace without feeling the pressure to keep up with other students or having to wait on them to catch up. Ken's courses will take you to a whole new level in taxidermy!

Cameron Mitchel

If you are serious about Taxidermy then this is the place to learn how to recreate a "Life Like Natural Deer". Ken gives thorough and detailed instruction and will help you develop throughout the training.

Herbert Foskey

I highly recommend this program to anyone who is interested in learning taxidermy. My husband and I took the basic whitetail course, and we were very pleased with what we learned in just one week...

Lyndsi Layne

I took my first professional taxidermy courses studying birds and hands down, I could not have picked a better guy. Ken knows his stuff, does beautiful work and is a fantastic instructor... Ken has continued to help answer my questions and offer advice. He has helped me more than he will ever understand or I could explain...

Katie Sorensen

I can say he (Ken) is one of the best instructors that I personally have known...I think the reason things worked out well in the seminar was because Ken did his homework and adapted his teaching style to my best suit my personal ability to learn.

James Kimura

Ken's program is flexible to accommodate any unusual needs for any new taxidermist to the seasoned taxidermist. Mike Watson

I would recommend it to anybody serious about taxidermy and have... Told them it's a great program, awesome instructor, all around great learning experiences.

Corey Galloway

I can speak from personal experience. Ken's classes are worth every penny and then some. I've been on multiple occasions and have been more than satisfied...

Clint Gouldin

I've gone to two weekend classes, and loved it both times. Most of the schools I've seen have long classes. Ken can usually work it out so that you don't have to be away from home long.

Their website is great, give it a look.

Richard Carter

Nothing but good things to say!"

Michael Cavanaugh

As an instructor myself I would always advise any one looking to spend money and time in a workshop or a school to do their home work and see or talk to first hand some students or past students and see how the experience was for them and ask why. I don't typically recommend a lot of other schools but...you couldn't have a better opportunity than to learn from Ken Darville. Ken runs a top shelf operation and you couldn't be anything but impressed with him personally as well as what he has to offer. It is worth your time and a phone call to Ken.

R.K

Here are a few points to keep in mind before, during and after your time with us

Clear your mind of any distractions.

Take good notes, pictures and anything else you can to reference later. Feel free to record audio, video or photograph any portion of the training; in fact, we encourage it if at all possible. This is your time...you own it. Take possession of it.

Stick with the process. It may not look like it is coming together at times when your executing the steps... but it will.

Trust your abilities. No matter what it is or how bad it looks, you can fix it.

When you leave, your focus should be jumping on that next mount as soon as possible to lock in everything you learned under your instructor. This cannot be emphasized enough.

Call...often. Check in and let us know how you are doing and what we can do to help you. Do not be afraid to call and ask for assistance on a problem.

Don't stop learning. If you follow our recommendations and get to work as quickly as possible, you will get better and better...But no matter how good you get, how much your business grows or how many awards you win, you must never view yourself as the final authority on anything.

Pray for challenges. They are a good test of your skills and are the best experiences you could hope for.

Effective Training (From our Taxidermy Tech Fall 2015 Newsletter)

An effective training program must be more than a testimony or a personal success story of the instructor(s). Being good at something does not necessarily mean you will be good at teaching it just as being a good teacher does not require a greater knowledge of a subject than everyone else on the planet. It does not hinge on perfect public speaking skills, graduate degrees or how many awards or trophies you have. Those are all good tools and certainly contributors to my own successes... but they are not the defining characteristics that make someone an effective instructor and under no circumstances are they the sole factors to consider in choosing a training program. In nearly 30 years in education and training from the Army to the Government and Private sectors, my perspective of "effective training" has evolved considerably.

First, there is no one-size-fits-all in training. As an instructor, you have to get out of the mindset of how you teach and into the mindset of understanding how your student learns. This alone has made me a better, more attentive instructor.

Second is establishing a training focus of important aspects of the training and evolving it as you assess strengths and weaknesses. There is a lot of good-to-know information out there and it has a place but keep your priorities centered on the must-know information and let it evolve from there.

The third principle focuses on practical application. Practice makes perfect right? Wrong. There is some flexibility in methods and techniques but incorrect applications of the fundamentals in practice will yield incorrect and inconsistent results. Only perfect practice makes perfect.

The fourth principle is based on my belief that our role in the student's professional development continues to be relevant when he/she leaves our physical premises through continued support, guidance and mentorship. The intent here is to provide a solid professional and technical foundation and the motivation and encouragement needed to grow and cultivate their skills and confidence.

Alumni

We have a great private group page on Facebook that is strictly Alumni and select vendors that are a part of our network. This is a group that supports its members where everyone knows each other through a single trusted source. We seek to bring members of our network together not only in a social media setting to share information and to encourage and support one another, but to also bring together those who are geographically close or even co-located to one another so that they can help one another.

Visit our websites (www.expressionsofwildlife.com and www.taxidermytech.com) for more information and testimonials and be sure and check out our Facebook pages for updates. Thank you for contacting us and let me know if we can be of assistance.

About



Kens experience in the taxidermy industry has spanned 35 years with more than half of it as an instructor. He has had a career in the Army and another 12 years working with the services as a civilian contractor. He has degrees in Business and in Organizational Management. Still Life Taxidermy was his first taxidermy shop near Columbus Georgia. He operated part time throughout most of his military and contractor career and full time for about 4 years thereafter. He currently operates Expressions of Wildlife Taxidermy and the Taxidermy Tech Program in Pensacola Florida full time. He is married to Valerie Barnes, has 3 daughters and 2 stepsons...4 grandsons and 3 granddaughters that are the center of his world!

Need more information?

If you have any more specific questions or would like to talk on the phone please feel free to call at 844-945-3278...worst case scenario if we can not talk at that particular time, we will set up a day and time. We can give you a pretty comprehensive overview and discuss with you your goals with taxidermy.