



# Young Dog Retriever Training Course Outline

Course meets **MONDAY** nights beginning **May 18, 2026** from **6-7:30 PM** on the **NDRC Gounds**.

*Obedience is far less a function of the leash or collar you have, but of your dog's desire to work with you and building a team.*

This 7-week course will help build a solid foundation for your young retriever in both obedience and retrieving.

**Week One - Monday, May 18, 2026** Course orientation night. Meet the trainers. Discussion of ground rules. Begin work on the command "watch me" to establish mental focus, as well as the commands for sit and heel.

**NO CLASS MONDAY MAY 25, 2026 – Memorial Day**

**Week Two - Monday, June 1, 2026** Continue work on commands introduced in week one. Begin work on "here/come" command as well as establish commands of "place" and "kennel." Introduction to the whistle, which will be paired with the here/recall command as well as the sit command.

**NO CLASS MONDAY JUNE 8, 2026 – NO CLASS – NDRC Grounds closed to training due to Midweek Master Hunt Test**

**Week Three - Monday, June 15, 2026** Introduction to marks. Participants will need their 30-ft check cord. This week of class will focus on helping your dog locate and follow the mark being thrown out in front of them from "the line." Throwers will offer encouragement to your dog in getting to the area of the fall. Dogs may establish a hunt if warranted, and then handlers will recall their dogs back to the line using the 30-ft check cord.

**Week Four - Monday, June 22, 2026** Introduction to gunfire through use of propane cannons, primers, blanks and/or popper shells to be fired at a distance while handlers are engaging their dogs in play/retrieving to allow them to acclimate to the sounds while associating the experience with a positive outcome of the retrieve and fun.

**Week Five - Monday, June 29, 2026** Introduction to water. If you have them, bring a pair of waders. Plan to get wet. Bring your dog's favorite retrieving toy or dummy that floats in order to encourage water retrieving. Handlers will encourage their dogs to enter the water and become familiar with swimming.

**Week Six - Monday, July 6, 2026** Introduction to live birds. Class will work with pigeons to help gauge and instill prey-drive in your dog.

**Week Seven - Monday, July 13, 2026** Course recap/review. In the final session, handlers and their dogs will split into groups to work on specific areas of need as identified by the handler and course trainers. The evening will end with a survey and discussion over material covered in the course. It's also a great time to gather contact information from all course participants if you haven't already done so in order to connect for future training opportunities or to ask questions as they arise. We may continue to meet in an unstructured format beyond the last scheduled evening of the course and we will discuss that option as the evening concludes.

**Enrollment – Course fee is \$75 plus a \$80 regular membership to the North Dakota Retriever Club.** For more information or to enroll, contact course trainer Tara Pearson at 218-790-1274, or via email at [tvpmidnight@netscape.com](mailto:tvpmidnight@netscape.com). You can also email the club at [nodakrc@gmail.com](mailto:nodakrc@gmail.com)