

# DOWNWIND

## LEARN THE IMPORTANCE OF WIND DIRECTION



This activity can be conducted indoors or outdoors.

### WHAT YOU NEED

- Strong scent, such as an air freshener or strong-smelling food such as beef jerky, an onion, or an orange.
- A fan and extension cord
- OR
- Sturdy cardboard to produce wind

### GETTING READY

Find an open area where you can set up a fan.

Educator's Note: Try to avoid an area with strong, competing smells, such as a food court. If you're setting up outside and have good, steady wind, you do not need a fan. Just place participants so the wind is blowing in the necessary direction.

Adapted from *Explore Bowhunting 2nd edition* pgs. 47-50

### LET'S GET STARTED

- 1 Set up the fan next to you, facing in any direction. Have participants stand in a circle around you, about 15-20 ft (5-7 yards) away. Have them close their eyes. Spray or place the food item in front of the fan or wind. Have participants raise their hand when they smell it.
- 2 Have participants open their eyes. Did they all smell the odor? Which participants were downwind? Did they smell it? Which were upwind? Did they smell it?
- 3 Next, line participants up single-file, spacing them out so the line goes at least 90 ft (30 yards). Set up the fan next to you, but don't turn it on yet. Stand about 10 ft away from the front of the line. Spray or hold the food up. Have the participants who can smell the odor raise their hands.

- 4 Turn on the fan and face it away from the participants. Spray or place the food item in front of fan and have those who can smell it raise their hands. Then turn the fan so it faces the line of participants. Spray or place the food item in front of the fan again and have those who smell it raise their hands.

- 5 Discuss the differences they noticed between no wind, being upwind, and being downwind of the scent. Why is it important to know which direction the wind is blowing when stalking an animal? Discuss and define the difference between upwind and downwind, and the importance of wind direction when trying to get close to wildlife.

#### Adaptation:

For younger participants or if timing is an issue, use bubbles as the "scent" to show how wind plays an important role in the direction they travel.

