

I took Weaponize the Senses in Michigan because tracking sounded like a cool skill that could be helpful in a lot of situations. I figured going into it that we would learn to see tracks on the ground and identify what they came from, but I had no idea what it would actually be like, what trackers actually look for when looking for tracks. Day one, we did a little bit of classroom work discussing the terminology of some ideas important to tracking, and very quickly got outside and started making our own tracks in a sand pit. As someone completely new to tracking, it was incredible how difficult it was to decipher the signs and get a full picture of what had happened based on footprints alone. We continued to work in the sand pit for a while, learning to make drawings of our tracks, to figure out the most likely direction of travel based on a single track, determining stride length, etc.

Once we left the sand pit, things got interesting. The environment we were in is one of the hardest mediums to track on: pine forest. The fallen pine needles create a soft, squishy bed over the ground, making the sign of any disturbance very hard to find. With Freddy's training (and maybe a few nudges in the right direction), I was able to find every track after a man had walked 25 meters through the forest. Once I found myself seeing tracks in my mind's eye after only a few hours of learning, I began to understand the incredible knowledge and teaching ability of Freddy.

On day two, we took things to the next level. We had to track a "fugitive" for many miles through the brush, working as a team to not only identify tracks, but to keep watch in all directions and collect evidence for later investigation. This part was incredibly difficult as our target did not just walk a straight line on a trail, this was many miles through unmaintained forest, with swamps, rivers, and a road along our path of travel. After tracking together for close to three hours, we finally found our fugitive lying in a ditch behind a fallen tree. To be able to go from no experience at all to being able to conduct a multi-mile tracking exercise through pine forest with a team in two days is a testament to the amount you will learn in this class.

Freddy's depth of knowledge and experience on the subject of tracking is almost mystical at times. But what is more mystical is his ability to impart that knowledge and experience onto his students with very little time to do so. You may not be an expert level tracker after a weekend with Freddy, but you *will* be able to track. Just after leaving the class, I was walking through the woods, and I saw a perfect boot print in the leaves. Prior to taking the class, I would have stumbled right over it and kept going without a second thought, but it stuck out to me as if it was screaming my name. After taking this class you will look at the world differently, you will look for tracks at every opportunity, and you will find them. It is an incredibly powerful tool that Freddy will teach you to use in whatever way you may need to.

I took Camo Craft in Michigan and then a second time in Arizona. Camo Craft will bring out the inner child in you as you crawl around through the bush in a ghillie suit that you made yourself from vegetation in the area, while using binoculars to identify targets while remaining unseen from said targets. It is an incredible exercise not only of your body as you hold painful positions while completely still for minutes at a time, but for your mind as well as you learn how to use the environment to your advantage.

In my first Camo Craft in Michigan, there was a group of people with us taking the class as well. To begin we had some classroom time discussing the basics of camouflage and how humans process information in their environment before getting outside and making a ghillie suit and hiding in the brush. This time I made mine out of a large section of jute, which weighed quite a lot and was extremely hot. To put it bluntly, I looked ridiculous. I was sure that I would be spotted right away in every exercise. But then something crazy happened, I wasn't spotted. It is a very strange feeling, looking at someone with your optics, while it seems like they are looking right at you, but then continuing to look past you. It really puts into perspective how easy it is to hide from people with minimal time and effort.

For the final exercise, we had to sneak down a densely vegetated hill and identify objects that Freddy was holding at the bottom, all while he was looking for us through his optics. I, of course, was spotted almost instantly and then helped Freddy spot others. After almost all the others were spotted, my girlfriend was the one that emerged victorious. We had an absolutely incredible time doing the class, but it pales in comparison to the next one we did in Arizona.

The most recent class I did with Freddy was Camo Craft in Tombstone, Arizona. My girlfriend and I were the only ones that signed up for the course, and Freddy still went through with it. It was by far the best class I have ever taken in any discipline. First off, Tombstone is a great little town, very historical with many things to do on your off time and many options for dining. The location of the actual class is an incredible ranch just outside Tombstone owned by some incredibly kind and accommodating people (as well as an orphaned raven that will land on your head and try to steal your writing utensils).

Now, all that being said, Arizona is much more unforgiving than Michigan. Every movement you make out in the brush is met with jagged rocks and pointy plants that stab into every part of your body. The beating sun and dry heat suck the moisture out of your body and wear you out very quickly. There are rattlesnakes and tarantula hawks to look out for. I loved every second of it. Having already learned the basics in Michigan, the added difficulty of the environment added a level to it that made the learning stick that much more. And it was not just a copy/paste of the class in Michigan, Freddy changed it up for us because he knew we were at least somewhat experienced. This time was much more focused on optics and movement as opposed to the camouflage itself. I also learned my lesson from last time, and swapped the thick layer of jute for a lightweight viper hood. The final exercise was the same idea as last time, but I won't spoil the details, although I will say it is an incredible location.

Now these classes would not be what they are without Freddy. Freddy is the mind, heart, and soul of Greenside Training, and that is reflected in the way that the business is run.

Freddy is what you would call a "been there, done that" kind of guy. He has used these skills that he is teaching you in real world environments, and it shows. Freddy has an air of confidence that comes from being at the top of his game, but without the slightest hint of ego. He does not teach this stuff just to show you how good he is, but because he genuinely wants you to be as good as you can be. Freddy has a very disarming, down to earth demeanor that makes you feel like you're out in the woods with your friends back home. In the end, Freddy is just a good dude

that is passionate about his craft and about spreading it to as many people as will listen, and I must say, I encourage anyone that is even remotely interested in this kind of stuff, listen. You will not regret it and you will make a friend in Freddy along the way. Opportunities to learn something like this from the best in the world are few and far between, and Freddy is offering it around the country at a reasonable price.