

= Hunting Trip =

" Hunting Trip " is the tenth episode of the second season of American comedy television series Parks and Recreation , and the sixteenth overall episode of the series . It originally aired on NBC in the United States on November 19 , 2009 . In the episode , Leslie tries to prove she can hang out with the guys by attending Ron 's annual hunting trip , where Ron is accidentally shot .

The episode was written by Daniel J. Goor and was directed by series co @-@ creator Greg Daniels . It also introduced a romantic subplot between the characters Andy and April which continued throughout the second season and into the third . Series co @-@ creator Michael Schur said the pairing was not previously planned , but grew when it was discovered actors Aubrey Plaza and Chris Pratt had strong comedic chemistry together .

According to Nielsen Media Research , " Hunting Trip " was seen by 4 @.@ 61 million viewers , a slight drop from the previous week 's episode , " The Camel " . The episode received generally positive to mixed reviews , with commentators particularly praising the Andy and April subplot , as well as the continued development of Leslie Knope 's character .

= = Plot = =

The episode opens with Andy ( Chris Pratt ) giving piggyback rides to everyone in the parks department . Later , Ron ( Nick Offerman ) , Jerry ( Jim O 'Heir ) and Mark ( Paul Schneider ) look forward to their annual " trail survey " , which is actually a yearly secret hunting trip . Determined to prove she can be just like one of the guys around the office , Leslie insists the ladies of the parks department attend the trip this year , as well as Tom ( Aziz Ansari ) , who has also never been invited . Ron is visibly disappointed .

Leslie asks April ( Aubrey Plaza ) to check on a budgeting request while they are gone . What should be a simple chore , however , has April waiting on hold at the phone for hours . When she desperately has to use the restroom , Andy agrees to wait by the phone . When she returns , the two start to bond by making up their own lyrics to the hold music , playing a non @-@ water game of Marco Polo around the office , and seeing who can make the best spit @-@ take . When Andy says he is jealous that his ex @-@ girlfriend Ann ( Rashida Jones ) is going to the hunting trip with Mark , April offers to give him a hickey to make Ann jealous , which Andy accepts .

Meanwhile , the others arrive at the cabin for the hunting trip . Leslie ( Amy Poehler ) proves to be an excellent hunter and bags the first quail . Growing increasingly agitated , Ron agrees to a challenge that Leslie cannot shoot more birds than he can , and they split up . After a few hours of hunting , Ron screams and the others rush to his side and find he has been shot in the head . Ann , a nurse , takes Ron back to the cabin , where he is absolutely furious even though the injury is not serious . Ron asks whether Leslie shot him , but she insists she did not . Ron takes several pain pills and washes it down with scotch , which forces Ann and Leslie to hold his mouth open and induce vomiting , despite fierce opposition from Ron himself .

The others discuss who shot Ron , and Tom creates a minor panic when he suggests perhaps an outsider is hunting them . Ann takes Leslie aside and says she knows who shot Ron , and a few minutes later Leslie admits to the group that she was the shooter , even though Ann knows this is not the case . A park ranger ( Jay Johnston ) arrives and interrogates Leslie , implying that the accident is the result of her femininity . Leslie knows that she is a good hunter , but goes along with the ranger 's sexist implications in order to appease him . Later , a bandaged Ron repeatedly berates Leslie , prompting Ann to insist Tom come forward . Tom admits he shot Ron , and that Leslie covered for him because he did not have his hunting license , which could have resulted in a \$ 25 @,@ 000 fine and prison time . Ron is impressed with Leslie , whom he calls a " stand @-@ up guy " . The episode ends with a get well party for Ron , where Ann is unimpressed with Andy 's hickey , and the whole party is horrified by Ron 's head wound .

= = Production = =

" Hunting Trip " was written by Daniel J. Goor and directed by series co @-@ creator Greg Daniels . The episode introduced a romantic subplot between the characters Andy and April which continued throughout the second season and into the third . Series co @-@ creator Michael Schur said the pairing was not previously planned , but grew when it was discovered during the filming of " Hunting Trip " that actors Aubrey Plaza and Chris Pratt had strong comedic chemistry together . However , Schur also said the idea to pair them together in " Hunting Trip " stemmed in part from a line Plaza improvised in the first season finale " Rock Show " , when Andy explained his style of music and April replied that she completely understood him . Schur said , " At the time , it was this little nothing , throwaway thing , but when we watched it , we thought there might be something there . "

During a November 2009 panel at the Paley Center for Media in New York City , Plaza said , " You 're going to see more scenes with Andy and April . There could be a love connection for them . " Daniels said some of his favorite moments from the series were in " Hunting Trip " and he particularly loved the " interpersonal stuff " between Andy and April , who he described as " two characters that you didn 't know had any interest in one another " . Pratt specifically sought to make Plaza laugh during their scene together and was ultimately successful . He told Daniels before filming , " I 'm gonna get something out of her . " " Hunting Trip " included a scene in which Leslie tells the state trooper multiple reasons or excuses for why she apparently shot Ron , all of which were edited together in a series of jump cuts . The technique has been commonly used throughout the Parks and Recreation series to condense multiple takes of improvisation from Poehler .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast on November 19 , 2009 , " Hunting Trip " was seen by 4 @. @ 61 million viewers , according to Nielsen Media Research . " Hunting Trip " drew a 2 @. @ 0 rating / 6 share among viewers aged between 18 and 49 . It constituted about a five percent drop in viewership from the previous week 's episode , " The Camel " , which itself was a five percent drop from the previous episode , " Ron and Tammy " . The episode received generally positive reviews , with several particularly praising the subplot between Aubrey Plaza and Chris Pratt . Reviewers also praised the continued developed of the Leslie Knope character , who proves to be intelligent and capable in " Hunting Trip " , rather than the clueless protagonist she appeared to be in earlier episodes . In 2011 , New York magazine writer called it " one of the breakout episodes that saw the show finding its momentum and figuring out how to transfer the dynamic outside of the office " .

Alan Sepinwall of The Star @-@ Ledger said " Hunting Trip " was not as funny as the previous episode , " The Camel " , but that it included excellent physical comedy like Ron 's refusal to throw up , and Andy 's piggyback rides throughout Pawnee town hall . Sepinwall also praised Leslie 's intelligence and savvy , which he said differentiates the show from Greg Daniels ' other show , The Office and its protagonist Michael Scott . IGN writer Matt Fowler particularly praised the pairing of Aubrey Plaza and Chris Pratt , which he called simultaneously funny , naturalistic and sweet . Fowler said the main hunting plot was funny , but " I 'm not a huge fan of horrific personal injury as a vehicle for humor " . Steve Heisler of The A.V. Club said he liked the episode , but that the main hunting subplot was messy because there was too much action involving too many supporting cast members . Heisler said the Andy and April subplot was more effective . Slate magazine writer Jonah Weiner praised " Hunting Trip " , especially the scene in which the characters become convinced they are being stalked by the Predator , the alien antagonist from the 1987 film of the same name . Weiner called it a " detour into an inspired absurdity that tugs against and tweaks the show 's bureaucratic backdrop " . Time magazine television critic James Poniewozik said " Hunting Trip " demonstrated how far Leslie Knope had developed since the first season . Poniewozik praised the " ultra @-@ deadpan " pairing of Andy and April , which he said was another in a continued line of " interesting combinations for its side players " . Steve Penner of The Portsmouth Herald said the sequence of Poehler 's statements to the park trooper was " worthy of her absolutely best SNL impressions " .

= = DVD release = =

" Hunting Trip " , along with the other 23 second season episodes of Parks and Recreation , was released on a four @-@ disc DVD set in the United States on November 30 , 2010 . The DVD also included deleted scenes from each episode . It also included a commentary track for " Hunting Trip " featuring Amy Poehler , Nick Offerman , Aziz Ansari , Rashida Jones , Chris Pratt , Jim O 'Heir , Retta , Aubrey Plaza , Michael Schur and Greg Daniels . " Hunting Trip " was also included in the DVD box @-@ set for the sixth season of The Office .