Living Off Grid Guide
Checklist of steps to get yourself off the grid version 1.0

1. Begin the process of becoming debt free and start saving
   - Review your debts and focus a paying the highest interest debt first
   - Create a budget to help you prioritize spending
     a. Use (Income – Savings) – fixed expenses = living expenses
   - Curb your spending by being thankful for what you already have

2. Decide how far off the grid you want to go
   - Consider what things you can and cannot live without
   - Think about how close you want to be to the city
   - Decide how healthy you are and what level of work you are willing and able to do

3. Create a plan
   - Have a strong why
   - Use this checklist to help you plan your preferred off grid lifestyle
   - Celebrate the small successes to stay motivated

4. Start a garden
   - Start learning how to grow your own food
   - Start small with just a few kinds of plants
   - Chose a sunny spot in your yard, or container grow
   - Set up your beds in the fall
   - Order your seeds in the fall
   - Plant your seeds indoors in January
   - Transplant into garden after last possible freeze
   - Water regularly
   - Harvest and store

5. Learn to hunt
   - Learn the licensing requirements of your state
   - Buy your gun and practice with it
   - Get your tag(s)
   - Scout the area and learn the animal’s habits
   - Get drawn
   - Butcher the animal and process the meat

6. Learn about livestock
   - Visit a local farm
   - Participate in 4H
   - Find a mentor

7. Live cheaply and save up for your ideal lifestyle
8. Buy your land
   □ Decide where you want to live
   □ Shop around using realty websites
   □ Find a real estate agent to help you
   □ Look for a southern exposure and access to water
9. Design and plan your home, power system and waste system
   □ Decide if you are going to use a septic tank or compost toilets
   □ Decide if you want solar or wind power or a combination
   □ Decide if you want to be connected to the electrical grid or be completely independent
   □ Consider placement of your home, well, power system, waste disposal, gardens and outbuildings carefully
   □ Look at lay of land, water drainage, and sun angles
10. Find your well spot and install it
    □ Find someone that can witch or dowse for water
    □ Locate the idea well spot
    □ Hire a well drilling company to drill or drill it yourself
11. Plant trees
    □ Plant your fruit and nut trees
    □ Install a watering system
12. Install your waste system
    □ Pick a spot for your septic tank or compost pile
    □ Hire a contractor to install your tank and leach line(s)
13. Move onto your land and live in a tent or an RV
    □ Sell what you don’t need and move
    □ Buy an RV, Camper, Tent or single wide as a starter home
14. Plan and design a new larger garden
    □ Calculate how much grain and starches you need to plant to get through winter and feed your animals
    □ Plan your spring crops
    □ Plan your summer crops
    □ Prepare the garden in the fall
    □ Plant your seeds indoors in January
    □ Transplant in the spring
15. Get your chickens
   □ Build or buy a chicken coop
   □ Purchase your chicks and a heat lamp in the spring
   □ Raise them indoors until their fuzz starts to disappear
   □ Move them to the coop when it is warm enough

16. Design and build your root cellar
   □ Choose a spot based on where your home will be
   □ Build it into a hill or underground
   □ Make sure it is large enough to store plenty of food

17. Design and build pens for livestock and fence off pastures
   □ Cows need at least one acre of grazing land per cow
   □ Keep animals away from your gardens, they will trample and eat everything
   □ Build a barn if you have harsh winters

18. Purchase your livestock
   □ You can buy at auction at fairs
   □ You can go to a sell house
   □ You can check places like craigslist

19. Design and build a large greenhouse for year around growing
   □ Keep in mind the sun angles
   □ Think about efficiently angling your glass
   □ Insolate north facing walls
   □ Use a saw tooth roof for optimum efficiency
   □ Consider vertical growing methods

20. Design and build a year round aquaponics system
   □ Know how much fish your family wants to eat
   □ Size your system based on need
   □ Combine it with your year around greenhouse

21. Live cheaply and save up

22. Build your dream home
   □ Research energy efficient techniques like large south facing windows
   □ Consult a green home engineer
   □ Decide on a HVAC system and whether or not geothermal is right for you
23. Install your power system
   √ Consult a solar power engineer
   √ Calculate the size of your battery storage
   √ Find optimum location
   √ Face panels south
   √ Consider changing the angles throughout the year

24. Live happily ever after