

Special Seasons Designated for Young Hunters

Share Your Knowledge, Reconnect To Nature — Take a Junior Hunter Afield During These Special Seasons!



Photo courtesy of Bill Connors

Once again, DEC is providing a special youth deer season over the three-day Columbus Day weekend. Junior hunters (ages 14–15) will be eligible to take one deer of either sex with a firearm during this season and may use a Deer Management Permit, Deer Management Assistance Program tag, or a regular season tag. Junior hunters may not use a crossbow to take a deer during this hunt. Rules of the Junior Hunter Mentoring Program (page 37) also apply.

DEC also offers special opportunities for junior hunters (ages 12–15) for waterfowl, wild turkey, and pheasants.

For all youth hunts, junior hunters must be accompanied by an adult hunter. Both the junior and adult hunters are required to have a hunting license for the youth deer season, a hunting license and a turkey permit for the turkey hunt, and a hunting license and current HIP registration for the waterfowl hunt. Adults are not allowed to possess a firearm, crossbow or bow or to harvest an animal while accompanying a junior hunter during the special seasons.

Crossbows may only be used by licensees who are 14 years of age or older.

Dutchess County sportsmen hosted a youth pheasant hunt for the 23rd year. Three dozen volunteers helped coordinate the event. About a dozen dog handlers were present to take turns taking 35 junior hunters afield. The young hunters met with success and took several birds. ECOs were also on hand to provide guidance to the young hunters.




➤ Archery program for grades 4-12

➤ Includes instructor training

➤ 332 schools currently enrolled

➤ 40,000 students participate annually

For more information, please visit naspschools.org or contact Jill Trunko at 518-402-8967, or email jillan.trunko@dec.ny.gov

Youth Hunts	
Youth Pheasant Hunt	
Northern and Eastern New York	September 29-30, 2018
Western New York	October 13-14, 2018
Long Island	October 27-28, 2018
Youth Waterfowl Hunt	
Waterfowl Hunting Zone	Tentative Dates
Northeastern	September 22-23, 2018
Southeastern	September 22-23, 2018
Lake Champlain	September 29-30, 2018
Western	October 13-14, 2018
Long Island	November 10-11, 2018
Youth Wild Turkey Hunt	
Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary) and Suffolk County	April 20-21, 2019
Youth Firearms Deer and Bear Hunt*	
Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary; excluding bowhunting-only WMUs)	Columbus Day Weekend; October 6-8, 2018

Junior Hunter/Trapper Mentoring Program

Junior Hunter Mentoring Program

12- and 13-year-old junior bowhunters can hunt deer and bear with a bow if they meet the following requirements:

- Have completed a course in both Hunter Education and Bowhunter Education
- Purchase a Junior Bowhunting License
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a "youth mentor" who is 21 years or older and designated in writing by the junior hunter's parent or legal guardian (use the form below)
- The adult accompanist needs to have at least 3 years of experience in hunting deer or bear by longbow AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
- The parent, guardian or youth mentor must maintain physical control over the minor at all times while hunting.

14- and 15-year-old junior hunting license holders can hunt deer and bear with a gun if they meet the following requirements:

- Have completed a course in Hunter Education
- Purchase a Junior Hunting License
- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or a "youth mentor" who is 21 years or older designated in writing (use the form below)
- The adult accompanist needs to have at least 3 years of hunting experience AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.
- The parent, guardian or youth mentor must maintain physical control over the minor at all times while hunting.
- The Junior Hunter must stay on the ground and cannot use an elevated (tree) stand.

- Both junior hunter and adult accompanist must wear hunter orange: Shirt or jacket with 250 sq. inches of solid/patterned orange (the pattern must be at least 50% orange) OR a hat with at least 50% orange visible in all directions.

14 and 15-year-old junior bowhunters and first-time 16 and 17-year-old big game hunters must:

- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or person 18 years or older designated in writing (use form below)
- The adult accompanist needs to have at least 1 year of hunting experience AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.

Trapping Mentoring Program

Trappers under 12 years of age:

- May accompany and assist a licensed trapper who has at least 3 years of trapping experience
- May assist the licensed trapper in all aspects of trapping without possessing a trapping license
- The licensed trapper may be a parent or legal guardian, or someone 18 years or older designated in writing (use the form below).
- If trapping on your own and you are under 12 years, you will need to successfully complete New York's Trapper Education Program.
- To continue trapping once you are 12 years, you need to take the class.

Share Your Hunting and Trapping Photos With Us!

Help us celebrate the successes of young and first-time hunters and trappers by submitting photographs to DEC's Hunting and Trapping Photo Gallery. Instructions for submitting photographs are included on the photo gallery webpage.

www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/54055.html



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Mentored Youth Hunter and Trapper Permission Form

Use this form to designate a licensed adult hunter or trapper to accompany young hunters or trappers.

I, _____ am the parent/legal guardian
(Print name of parent or legal guardian above.) (Please circle one.)

of _____, and I hereby give permission for him or her
(Print name of young hunter/trapper above.)

to be accompanied by _____ whom I acknowledge meets
(Print name of adult hunter/trapper above.)

the legal age, experience, and licensing requirements to function as a mentor during hunting and trapping seasons.

Signature: _____
(Parent or legal guardian sign above.)

Date _____ Telephone Number _____
(Print today's date above.) (Print phone number above.)

Attention Young Hunter or Trapper: carry this form with you while afield.