



Hunting in New York – Safe, Enjoyable, Rewarding

The 2015 hunting season in New York proved to be one of the safest on record and yielded the first year without a hunting-related shooting fatality since the 1950s. I commend and thank all of you and our strong network of volunteer hunter education instructors for instilling a strong safety ethic with the hunters of New York. To further our hunter education efforts, we recently adopted new procedures where hunter education class participants must complete home study and homework prior to their class to better prepare themselves for the instructor-led training.

With this year's historic increase to the Environmental Protection Fund to \$300 million, and ongoing investments in the New York Works program, we will continue our strong efforts to protect more land and promote increased access opportunities for public recreation. In the spring we completed the largest Adirondack land acquisition in the past 100 years with the purchase of the Boreas Ponds Tract. These lands will provide unparalleled opportunities for hunting, hiking, and wildlife observation. This past year we also added several parcels to New York's network of Wildlife Management Areas which are specifically managed for wildlife, their habitats, and wildlife-dependent recreation.

In addition to acquiring and opening up more land for wildlife recreation, we are also making great strides to improve management of this amazing areas. Following through on our commitment of enhanced habitat management on our public lands, DEC's Young Forest Initiative is leading to the creation of Habitat Management Plans for New York's Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). These plans provide the roadmap for management of all wildlife habitats which is essential to ensuring strong populations of popular game species. DEC staff have established an aggressive timeline for completion of these plans so we can quickly begin the necessary on-the-ground habitat management.

When you go afield this fall, you will find new, accessible trails, improved parking areas, recently-constructed observation blinds, and better-quality information at our access sites. Continuing with the NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative, this year's budget, coupled with the budgets from the two previous years, provides \$17 million for projects to improve recreation access to state forests, wildlife areas and unique areas. More than 50 projects have been completed to date from Suffolk County on Long Island to St. Lawrence County in northern New York to Chautauqua County in the western part of the State.

The 2016-17 Hunting and Trapping Guide has a wealth of information about wildlife and wildlife management in New York. DEC staff go to great lengths to provide you with all the information you need to have a safe and enjoyable time outside. In addition to understanding and following the rules and regulations outlined within, I encourage you to read the updates and articles in this guide to keep apprised of the latest information and help us manage New York's outstanding natural resources.

I wish you all a safe and successful season with many enjoyable days spent afield with family and friends,

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York

Highlights of Changes

Highlights of Changes for 2016–2017

Revisions to Fisher Trapping Season

Regulations were recently adopted that will:

- Reduce the fisher trapping season from 46 days to 30 days in selected Adirondack Wildlife Management Units (WMUs);
- Establish a limited 6-day open trapping season (no bag limit) in selected WMUs in Central/Western New York to provide new opportunities for sustainable use of this natural resource;
- Require licensed trappers who pursue fisher to obtain a free permit from their regional wildlife office;

For more details, see information on page 52.

Rifles in Albany and Livingston Counties

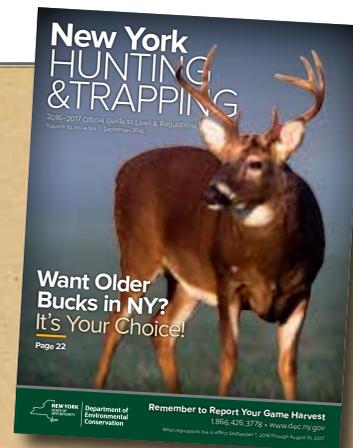
Legislation has passed that will allow the use of rifles to hunt big game in Albany County for two more years, and to allow rifles to hunt big game in Livingston County permanently.

PENDING Updates to Deer and Bear Hunting Seasons

At the time of press, regulations are pending that would:

- Allow junior hunters to take bear as well as deer during the youth firearms hunt;
- Rescind an antlerless-only requirement established in 2015 during portions of the bow and muzzleloader season in some Wildlife Management Units (WMUs);
- Reduce the take of antlerless deer in WMUs 6F and 6J by allowing hunters to only take antlered deer during the early muzzleloader season;
- Clarify that bow/mz either-sex and antlerless-only deer tags may both be used during either bow or muzzleloader seasons by properly licensed hunters.

Check DEC's website for the latest regulation changes before heading afield this fall.



About this Guide

This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish & wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports the DEC's staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important fisheries and habitat programs!

If you have any feedback or are interested in advertising, please contact us at 413.884.1001 or online at www.JFGriffin.com

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*** Attention Teachers ***

For more information:
www.dec.ny.gov/education/81939.html
Melissa Bailey at 315-793-2515 or
Email mrb323@cornell.edu

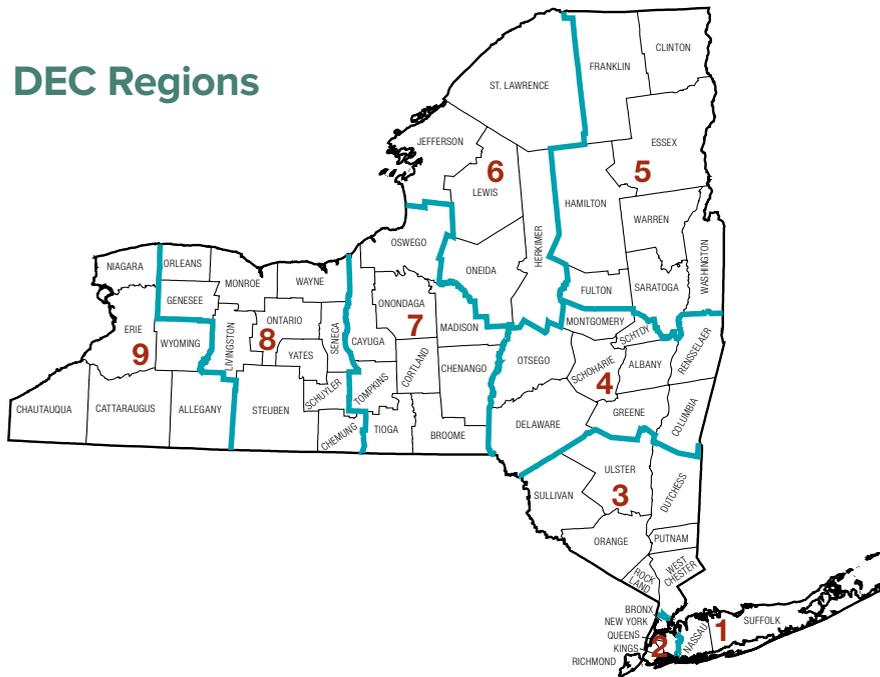
Attention Boaters!

New regulations are now in effect for all DEC boat launch facilities. Before you launch your boat or leave a site, you are required to:

- Clean all visible plant and animal material from your boat, trailer and associated equipment.
- Drain your boat's bilge, livewell, baitwell, and other water-holding compartments.

Important Numbers

DEC Regions



Discover yourself...

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Hands-on workshops where women can learn outdoor skills in a supportive atmosphere with patient, enthusiastic instructors.

www.dec.ny.gov/education/68.html
518-402-8862

Important Numbers

Region	Offices	Wildlife	Law Enforcement	Sportsman Ed
1	Stony Brook University 50 Circle Rd. Stony Brook, NY 11790-3409	(631) 444-0310	(631) 444-0250	(631) 444-0255
2	1 Hunters Pt. Plaza 4740 21st St. Long Island City, NY 11101-5407	(718) 482-4922	(718) 482-4885	(631) 444-0255
3	21 South Putt Corners Rd. New Paltz, NY 12561	(845) 256-3098	(845) 256-3013	(845) 256-3063
4	1130 North Westcott Rd. Schenectady, NY 12306-2014	(518) 357-2355	(518) 357-2047	(518) 357-2355
	65561 State Hwy 10, Suite 1 Stamford, NY 12167-9503	(607) 652-7367	—	—
5	1115 Route 86, PO Box 296 Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296	(518) 897-1291	(518) 897-1326	—
	232 Golf Course Rd. Warrensburg, NY 12885	(518) 623-1240	—	(518) 623-1240
6	317 Washington St. Watertown, NY 13601-3787	(315) 785-2263	(315) 785-2231	(315) 785-2533
	225 North Main Street Herkimer NY 13350	(315) 866-6330	—	—
	6739 US Highway 11 Potsdam, NY 13676	(315) 265-3090	—	—
	17893 Game Farm Rd. Dexter, NY 13634	(315) 639-6122	—	—
7	615 Erie Blvd. West Syracuse, NY 13204-2400	—	(315) 426-7431	—
	1285 Fisher Avenue Cortland, NY 13045	(607) 753-3095 ext. 247	—	(607) 753-3095 ext. 242 or 247
8	6274 E. Avon-Lima Rd. Avon, NY 14414-9519	(585) 226-5380	(585) 226-6706	(585) 226-5463
	7291 Coon Rd. Bath, NY 14810-9728	(607) 776-2165	—	—
9	270 Michigan Ave. Buffalo, NY 14203-2999	(716) 851-7010	(716) 851-7050	—
	182 East Union St., Suite 3 Allegany, NY 14706	(716) 372-0645	—	(716) 372-0645

Other Important Numbers

DEC Automated Licensing System	1-86-NY-DECALS (1-866-933-2257)M-F, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM
NYC Watershed Hunting Permits	1-800-575-5263
Deer Management Hotline	1-866-472-4332
Report Game Take via DECALS	1-866-GAME-RPT (1-866-426-3778)
Report Poachers and Polluters Hotline	1-844-DEC-ECOS (1-844-332-3267)
LifetimeLicenseInformation	(518) 402-8843
Sportsman Education	1-888-HUNT ED2
Reporting Banded Waterfowl	1-800-327-2263 www.reportband.gov
MigratoryBirdHarvestInformation Program (HIP)	1-888-427-5447 www.NY-HIP.com
Information on NYSAFE Act	1-855-LAW-GUNS
Law Enforcement (ECOs)	1-877-457-5680

General License Information

Mandatory Hunter Education

A hunter education course is required for persons who cannot provide proof that they have ever possessed a hunting license. You must be at least 11 years of age to take this class. The general course is a minimum seven hours in length. Once the course is complete, the individual must have the completed education certificate added to their sportsman profile. This can be done anywhere licenses are sold or by calling 1-866-933-2257. DEC honors hunter education certificates and sporting licenses from all other states and countries.

Mandatory Bowhunter Education

Hunters wishing to bowhunt for big game must present either:

1. Proof that he or she successfully completed an approved bowhunter education course; (Note: Approved courses are International Bowhunter Education Program Courses or an equivalent course. If in doubt, call toll free — 1-888-HUNT-ED2) OR
2. Proof that he or she previously held a NYS bowhunting license or stamp issued in 1980 or later; if proof is from prior to 1980, he/she must take an additional 7-hour minimum bowhunter education course.

Mandatory Crossbow Requirement

Hunters wishing to use a crossbow must complete qualifications in the safe use of hunting with a crossbow and responsible crossbow hunting practices. See page 9 for details.

Residency

To qualify for a resident license, a person must live in New York State for more than 30 days immediately preceding the date of application. Land ownership in New York does not make you a resident. Residency is that place where a person maintains a fixed, permanent and principal home (regardless of where temporarily located), such as where a person is registered to vote. If under 18, the residence of parents or legal guardian shall be deemed such person's residence.

Active members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in New York and full-time college students in residence in the state during the school year (proof required) qualify for annual resident licenses.

Continued on page 14

Licenses, Privileges and Permits

Type	Age or Special Qualifier	Price
Hunting (Ages 16+) Privileges: Hunt small game species with gun, bow or crossbow (see page 9). Hunt deer or bear with gun, muzzleloader, bow (with proof of bow education or a bow privilege), or crossbow (see page 9) during the regular season, or hunt with shotgun or muzzleloader during the January firearms season (permit required — see page 18) in Suffolk County (WMU 1C). You may hunt frogs with a valid Hunting or Fishing license. Qualifications: Hunter Education Certificate OR previous hunting license. Certificates to possess firearms do not qualify. Note: Those less than 18 years of age who are hunting big game for the first time as a holder of a hunting license must be accompanied for the entire season by a parent or legal guardian, or a person 18 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37) with at least one year's experience hunting bear or deer. Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.	16–69 (NYS Resident)	\$22
	70+ (NYS Resident)	\$5
	Military Disabled ¹	\$5
	Patriot ²	FREE
	Native American ³	FREE
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$100
Junior Hunting (Ages 12–15) Privileges: • Ages 12–13: Hunt small game species with gun or bow during appropriate seasons when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian, or person 21 years of age or older with written permission from parent or guardian (see permission form on page 37). • Ages 14–15: Hunt small game with gun, bow, or crossbow (see page 9) when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian or person 18 years of age or older with written permission from parent/guardian. Hunt deer or bear with a gun, bow (with proof of bow education or a bow privilege) or crossbow (see page 9) when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian or "youth mentor" 21 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37). * Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37. Qualifications: Hunter Education Certificate OR previous hunting license (certificates to possess firearms do not qualify). Must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian to purchase. First-time applicants must show proof of age (birth certificate or passport). Junior hunters do not need a Federal Duck Stamp but are required to register in NY's Harvest Information Program (www.NY-HIP.com) to hunt migratory game birds.	12–15 (NYS Resident)	\$5
	12–15 (Non-Resident)	\$5
	Bowhunting Privilege (Ages 16+) Privileges: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during bowhunting seasons. Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license, PLUS acceptable Bowhunter Education Certificate, OR NYS Bowhunting Stamp issued in 1980 or later, OR NYS Junior Bowhunting License issued 1980 or later. Note: To hunt deer or bear with a bow during the regular season, hunter must possess both a valid hunting license and either a current bowhunting privilege or a valid Bowhunter Education Certificate. This includes Westchester and Suffolk counties.	16–69 (NYS Resident)
	70+ (NYS Resident)	FREE
	Military Disabled ¹	FREE
	Patriot ²	\$15
	Native American ³	FREE
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$30



Licenses, Privileges and Permits

Type	Age or Special Qualifier	Price
Junior Bowhunting (Ages 12–15)	12–15 (NYS Resident)	\$4
	12–15 (Non-Resident)	\$4
Privileges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ages 12–13: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during the bowhunting season or the regular season when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian, or a "youth mentor" 21 years or older and designated in writing (see permission form on page 37). Ages 14–15: Hunt deer and bear with a bow during the bowhunting season and the regular season when accompanied* by a parent, legal guardian or "youth mentor" 18 years of age or older designated in writing (see permission form on page 37). Youth hunter will receive a deer of either sex tag for use in the regular season, instead of a Regular season buck tag. 		
<p>* Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 36 & 37. Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license, PLUS acceptable Bowhunter Education OR previous Junior Bowhunting License. Must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian to purchase.</p>		
Muzzleloader Privilege (Ages 14+)	14–69 (NYS Resident)	\$15
	70+ (NYS Resident)	FREE
	Military Disabled ¹	FREE
	Patriot ²	\$15
	Native American ³	FREE
Deer Management Permit Application (Ages 12+)	14+ (Non-Resident)	\$30
	12–15 (NYS Resident)	FREE
	16+ (NYS Resident)	\$10
	Military Disabled ¹	\$10
	Patriot ²	\$10
	Native American ³	\$10
	12–15 (Non-Resident)	FREE
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$10
	12+ (NYS Resident)	\$10
	Military Disabled ¹	\$10
Turkey Permit (Ages 12+)	Patriot ²	\$10
	Native American ³	\$10
	12+ (Non-Resident)	\$20
	12–15 (NYS Resident)	\$5
	16–69 (NYS Resident)	\$20
Trapping	70+ (NYS Resident)	\$5
	Military Disabled ¹	\$5
	Patriot ²	FREE
	Native American ³	FREE
	12–15 (Non-Resident)	\$5
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$275

Residency: To receive NYS resident pricing on annual licenses, a person must live in New York State for more than 30 days immediately preceding the date of application. Proof is required (e.g., NYS Driver License, NYS Non-Driver ID, Voter Registration card. Proof must contain a valid NYS address). Land ownership alone does not qualify. Residency is that place where a person maintains a fixed, permanent and principal home, such as where a person is registered to vote. If less than 18 years of age, the residence of parent or legal guardian shall be deemed such person's residence. Active members of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in New York and full-time college students in residence in the state during the school year (proof required) qualify for annual resident licenses.

¹ **Military Disabled:** Permanent status — must provide a letter from the Department of Veterans' Affairs stating the disability is "permanent" and rated at a 40% or greater service-connected disability. Once permanent eligibility is determined, it will stay in your customer profile. Annual Status — must provide a letter ANNUALLY from the Department of Veterans' Affairs stating the disability is service connected and rated at 40% or more. The letter must be dated in the current year. Note: The first purchase of either a Hunting, Fishing or Trapping license within a calendar year will cost \$5. Subsequent purchases of these license types will be free for qualifying customers.

² **Patriot:** Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are available to NYS residents who have the appropriate hunting or trapping education and are active members of the NYS National Guard, US Reserve Forces or certain members of the US Armed Forces. For more detailed information, visit our website or call (518) 402-8843.

³ **Native American:** Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are available to members of the Shinnecock and Poptuck tribes and members of the Six Nations residing on reservations whole or partially in New York State. Licenses must be obtained from participating tribal councils or DEC headquarters in Albany (518) 402-8843.

Lifetime Sporting Licenses

The following Lifetime Licenses are available to New York State residents only and may be purchased at all license-issuing outlets throughout New York State. Applicants must prove NYS residency for one year prior to application (proofs are the same as annual licenses with the exception of the one-year requirement). For additional information and clarification on Lifetime License sales, contact our License Sales Unit, NYSDEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4790, call 518-402-8843, or visit our website www.dec.ny.gov. Lifetime License Holders should expect to receive their annual carcass tags in the mail by no later than Sept. 15 annually. License Issuing Agents will replace it free of charge until Nov. 1 annually. After Nov. 1, there will be a charge up to \$15. If you hold your permanent ID card, you will only have to replace your carcass tags at a fee of \$10.

Lifetime License (Sportsman) (combined hunting and fishing privileges, also includes turkey permits):	
For a person age 0–4	\$380
For a person age 5–11	\$535
For a person age 12–69	\$765
For a person age 70 or older	\$65
Other Lifetime Licenses/Privileges	
Hunting License	\$535
Fishing License (age 0–69)	\$460
Fishing License (age 70 and older)	\$65
Trapping License	\$395
Bowhunting	\$235
Muzzleloading	\$235

Lifetime Licenses and Tags for Young Hunters

Young hunters who hold a lifetime hunting license and wish to receive their tags must first take the appropriate hunter safety training course. A copy of the certificate(s) must be sent to the DEC License Sales Unit (see address above) before their tags can be fulfilled. Young hunters should take the appropriate training course well in advance of the season to allow adequate time for their tags to be mailed. Tags cannot be obtained by contacting your local license-issuing agent.

When purchasing a lifetime license for a child, the purchaser must bring proof of the child's age (e.g., birth certificate or passport) and a copy of the parent's proof of residency.

Remember to Report Your Game Harvest...

Visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html> for details.

It's the law!

See page 17.

General License Information

Minimum Hunting Age

Minors under the age of 12 may not obtain a hunting license or hunt wildlife.

License Year

Licenses and permits are valid from September 1 through August 31.

License Responsibilities

- A license or tag is not transferable and may be used only by the person to whom issued (except for Deer Management Permits—see page 30–31).
- It is not legal to possess another person's license while hunting.
- A license to hunt, trap or fish does not give the holder any right to go on private property without permission of the landowner.
- You can legally purchase and possess only one hunting license per year.
- Your license must be carried on your person when hunting or trapping.
- It is illegal to refuse to show your license on demand to a law enforcement officer or the owner, lessee or person in control of the lands (or their designees) while on their property.
- Make sure that your license has all the correct information. Carefully check it immediately after receipt. If you discover an error, have it corrected as soon as possible.
- Do NOT heat laminate your license. High temperatures will destroy the tags and turn them black. If tags are destroyed, there is a fee for replacement.

Back Tags

Must be visibly displayed on the middle of your back while hunting, except in the Northern Zone and Catskill Park.

Stamps / Donations		
Type	Age or Special Qualifier	Price
Habitat & Access Stamp Donations are used to create or improve fish and wildlife habitat or improve access to those resources for recreation or educational activities.	Any	\$5
Venison Donation Help feed the hungry by supporting NY's venison donation program.	Any	\$1 or more
Federal Duck Stamp Available at most post offices and some sporting goods stores. Privileges: Hunt migratory waterfowl. It is not needed for gallinules, coot, crows, rails, woodcock or snipe. All migratory game bird hunters, including junior hunters, must register with the Harvest Information Program by calling toll free 1-888-427-5447 or registering online at: www.NY-HIP.com Qualifications: Validated by holder's signature on the face of the stamp. Hunter must also possess a current year NYS hunting license.	16+	\$25

Hunting License Exceptions

All residents must have a valid hunting license in their possession except:

- Resident owners primarily engaged in farming, lessees and members of their immediate families do not need a hunting license when hunting small game on farm lands they are occupying and cultivating.
- Native Americans living on a reservation do not need a hunting license while hunting on reservation lands.

Free Licenses/ Patriot Licenses

Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are available to members of the Shinnecock and Poospatuck tribes and members of the Six Nations residing on reservations in the state. They must be obtained from some tribal councils or DEC headquarters in Albany (518) 402-8843.

Free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses are also available to NYS residents who have the appropriate Sportsman Education and are active service members of the NYS Guard, US Reserve Forces or certain members of the US Armed Forces. For more detailed information, visit our website or call (518) 402-8843.

Lost Licenses

A current year lost license may be replaced at any license-issuing outlet at a cost of \$5 for a license panel. Big game carcass tag sets or turkey carcass tag sets may be replaced at a cost of \$10. There is no charge to replace a lost backtag.

Deer Hunting Privileges and Tags

Resident hunter licenses

3. **Hunting:** You will receive a Regular Season Deer Tag.
4. **Muzzleloading privilege:*** You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag.
5. **Junior bowhunting or bowhunting privilege:*** You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag.

Non-resident hunters

1. **Non-resident hunting:** You will receive a Regular Season Deer Tag.
2. **Non-resident bowhunting or non-resident junior bowhunting:*** You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag.
3. **Non-resident muzzleloading:*** You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag.

* Residents and Non-residents must purchase a hunting license to be eligible for Bowhunting and Muzzleloading privileges.

If you purchase both bowhunting and muzzleloading privileges, you will receive one Bow/Mz Either Sex Deer Tag and one Bow/Mz Antlerless Deer Tag. Both tags may be used in either season.

Special Licenses for Hunters with Disabilities

Non-ambulatory hunter permit

This permit allows qualified hunters to shoot a firearm from a motorized vehicle (including an off-road vehicle) that has the motor turned off and that is completely off the highway right-of-way.

To qualify for a Non-Ambulatory Hunter Permit, a person must be physically unable to move about except with the use of a mechanized aid such as a wheelchair.

Modified archer permit

This permit allows qualified people to hunt big or small game with a legal bow that is equipped with a device to hold it in a drawn and cocked position. This permit does not allow the use of a crossbow.



Please remember that safe storage of rifles, shotguns and other firearms is good practice. New York law states that for increased safety, firearms must be stored unloaded and locked where they are both separate from ammunition and inaccessible to children and any other unauthorized person.

Visit ProjectChildSafe.org for more information on how to ensure that your firearms are being stored safely.



Sportsman Education

All first-time hunters, bowhunters and trappers must pass one or more courses before they can purchase a license in New York. Trained volunteer instructors certified by DEC teach safe and responsible outdoor practices and the important role of hunters and trappers in conservation.

Beginning in 2016, all Sportsman Education Courses require the completion of homework prior to attending the course. Proof of the completed homework must be brought to the course led by an instructor. The homework may take several hours to complete, so one should not begin the work the night before the course.

There are a few simple ways to obtain the study materials to complete the homework requirement:

- Download the free manual and worksheet [OR](#)
- Obtain the manual and worksheet through the guidelines of the course announcement [OR](#)
- Complete the online homework (fee) and print the voucher to bring to the course.

Visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7860.html for more information on materials, including a list of courses.

There are NO "online-only" courses. All courses have an in-person field day. All courses are free of charge, but space may be limited. As hunting seasons approach, many classes fill quickly. **SIGN UP EARLY!**

To qualify for a Modified Archer Permit, a person must be permanently physically unable to draw and hold a legal bow.

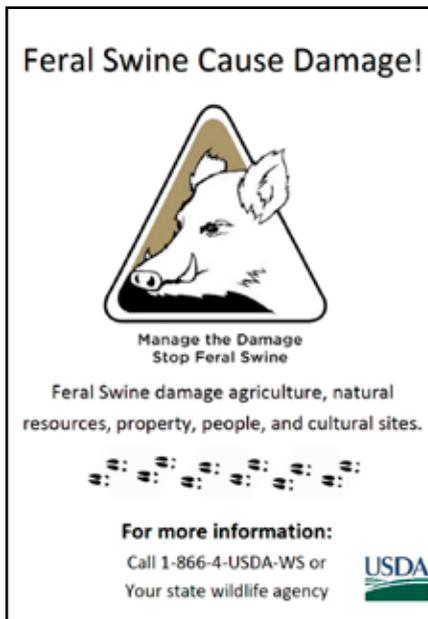
Modified Crossbow Permit

This permit allows qualified people to hunt big or small game during bowhunting season with a crossbow that has been specifically modified with a device that only allows it to be discharged (fired) by means of a breath tube. This permit does not allow the use of an unmodified crossbow.

To qualify for a Modified Crossbow Permit, a person must be permanently physically unable to hold or draw a legal bow or to fire a legal bow that has been modified to hold and release the string.

If a person can pull the trigger on a gun, he or she will not qualify for a Modified Crossbow Permit.

For more information on these permits, write the NYS DEC Special Licenses Unit, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4752, email speciallicenses@dec.ny.gov or call (518) 402-8985. The application process takes time; write or call well before you intend to hunt.



New York State Conservation Council, Inc.

A non-profit organization tax exempt under IRS Section 501(c)(3)

The New York State Conservation Council (NYSCC) is sportsmen working for sportsmen. The NYSCC is the oldest statewide conservation organization in New York, started in 1933 by sportsmen/conservationists to help secure and manage our natural resources for future generations, and to protect the rights of sportsmen and sportswomen to hunt, fish, trap, and own firearms. The NYSCC represents over 300,000 sportsmen and women from county federations, sportsmen's clubs, and various other organizations across New York. Sportsmen's interests in conservation and outdoor activities in New York State are coordinated through the NYSCC. NYSCC was the lead organization in the successful change of EnCon Law to allow 14-15 year olds to hunt big game with a rifle, shotgun or muzzleloader, allow 12-13 year olds to hunt small game with a mentor and create a trapper mentor program for youth under 12. The NYSCC sponsors a nationwide Sportsmen's and Conservation Club Liability Insurance Program that offers extremely competitive rates for NYSCC member clubs and shooting preserves. The plan is administered through the United Insurance Agency, Inc.

For information about the Club Liability Insurance Program contact John Long, Jr. or Colleen Jackson at 1-800-728-4522.

For info, membership, or to donate to the NYSCC, contact **315-894-3302**, or email nyscc@nyscc.com. Visit our website: www.nyscc.com

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclose check or money order payable to NYSCC or Charge \$ _____ to my (circle one) Visa or MasterCard

Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Check one: Guardian \$25 _____ Defender \$60 _____ Life \$250 _____ *Send application to NYSCC, 8 East Main Street, Ilion NY 13357.*

General Hunting Regulations

The following are general hunting regulations. Specific regulations for various game species are in the Small Game, Big Game and Trapping sections of this booklet.

Definitions

Air gun—a firearm that uses spring or compressed air (not gunpowder) to propel a single projectile that is .17 caliber or larger and produces a muzzle velocity of at least 600 feet per second. You may use a smooth or rifled bore.

Bow—includes long (stick), compound, or recurve bow.

Crossbow—consists of a bow, a string, and either compound or recurve limbs with minimum width of 17 inches (tip of limbs, uncocked), mounted on a stock. The stock shall have a trigger with a working safety that holds the string and limbs under tension until released. It shall have a minimum overall length from the butt of the stock to the front of the limbs of 24 inches and be able to launch a minimum 14-inch arrow/bolt, not including the legal arrowhead. It shall have a draw weight of 100 to 200 pounds. Optical sights are allowed on crossbows.

Firearm—all guns, including handguns, rifles, shotguns, muzzleloaders and BB and pellet guns.

Handgun—is any pistol or revolver intended to be aimed and fired with one hand and having a barrel length not exceeding 16 inches.

To hunt—means to pursue, shoot, kill or capture (other than trap) wildlife and includes all lesser acts that disturb or worry wildlife, whether or not they result in taking. Hunting also includes all acts to assist another person in taking wildlife.

Motor vehicle—means every vehicle or device operated by any power other than muscle power including but not limited to automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, tractors, trailers, motorboats, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, whether operated on or off public highways.

Muzzleloading firearm—is a firearm loaded through the muzzle, shooting a single projectile and having a minimum bore of .44 inch.

Public highway—means any road maintained by a state, county or town. A private road is one maintained by a person or corporation.

Rifle—is a firearm with a barrel length of 16 inches or more with rifling in the barrel that uses metallic cartridges.

Shotgun—is a firearm with a barrel length of 18 inches or more that uses shells that are non-metallic except for the base.

To take—means to pursue, shoot, hunt, kill, capture, trap, snare or net wildlife and game—and all lesser acts that disturb or worry wildlife—or to place or use any net or other device commonly used to take wildlife.

To trap—means to take, kill or capture wildlife with traps, deadfalls and other devices commonly used to take wildlife, including the shooting or killing of lawfully trapped animals. It also includes all related activities such as placing, setting, staking or checking traps or assisting another person with these activities.

Manner of Taking

It is illegal to take or hunt wildlife:

- While in or on a motor vehicle (except by special permit—see page 14)
- With the aid of a vehicle's lights
- On or from any public road
- With any firearm equipped with a silencer
- With any firearm which continues to fire as long as the trigger is held back (an automatic firearm)
- With any semi-automatic firearm with a capacity to hold more than 6 rounds, **except:**
 1. Firearms using .22 or .17 caliber rimfire ammunition, or
 2. Firearms altered to reduce their capacity to no more than 6 shells at one time in the magazine and chamber combined, or
 3. Autoloading pistols with a barrel length of less than eight inches
- With a spear
- With a bow equipped with any mechanical device which is attached to the bow (other than the bowstring) for drawing, holding or releasing the bowstring except for a person with a physical disability in possession of a Modified Longbow Authorization (compound bows are legal)
- With a spear gun or modified crossbow except for a person with a physical disability in possession of a Modified Crossbow Permit
- With an arrow with an explosive head or shaft.
- With any device designed or intended to deliver drugs to an animal
- With a crossbow if you are under 14 years old

Baiting—It is illegal to hunt with the aid of bait or over any baited area when hunting big game, upland game birds, turkey or waterfowl.

Fish—Crossbows may not be used to take carp or any other fish.

Artificial lights—It is illegal to hunt deer or bear with the aid of any artificial light including laser sights.

Spotlighting

You may use lights to observe wildlife under the following conditions:

- You are not within 500 feet of a home or farm building, unless you have permission from the owner or lessee (when looking for deer or bear)
- While in or on a motor vehicle and operating a light and no person has a firearm, bow, or crossbow unless:
 - » the implement is taken down, or
 - » the implement is securely fastened in a case, or
 - » the implement is locked in the trunk of the vehicle, or
 - » the implement is a handgun

For information on hunting furbearers at night, see page 53.

Possession of Firearms and Crossbows

During the open season for deer, it is illegal to:

- Possess shotgun shells loaded with slug or ball, unless holding a valid license (including carcass tags) or permit to take deer or bear, or
- Possess a rifle larger than a .22-caliber rimfire in areas where rifles are banned for taking deer (**Centerfire rifles less than .22-caliber and muzzleloading rifles are legal**)

In Westchester County and on Long Island, it is illegal to use any rifle for hunting or to carry one afield. In Suffolk, Nassau and Westchester counties, it is illegal to use a crossbow to hunt wildlife.

In the Northern Zone, it is illegal to carry a rifle larger than .22 rimfire or a shotgun loaded with slug, ball or buckshot afield if accompanied by a dog, except when coyote hunting.

Possession of handguns in New York requires a NYS Pistol Permit. New York does not recognize permits issued by other states.

Transportation of Firearms

A person may not transport or possess a shotgun, rifle or crossbow in or on a **motor vehicle** unless the firearm is unloaded in both chamber and magazine or the crossbow is unloaded or taken down. While legally hunting migratory game birds, a loaded firearm may be possessed in a motorboat not under power OR in a motorboat under power only while retrieving dead/crippled birds.

A muzzleloader is considered unloaded when the cap is off the nipple, the primer is removed, the primer powder is removed from the flintlock pan, or the battery is removed from an electric-fired muzzleloader.

A crossbow is considered unloaded when the arrow/bolt is removed and the crossbow is uncocked.

ASK Permission

"ASK Permission" stickers, a brochure explaining the program, Landowner Permission forms, and information about fish and wildlife conservation are available free from DEC regional wildlife offices or by writing:

NYSDEC, 625 Broadway,
Albany, NY 12233-4754

OR ONLINE
at www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8371.html



Discharge of Firearms, Crossbows and Bows, Protected and Unprotected Wildlife

It is illegal to discharge a firearm, crossbow or bow:

- So that the load or arrow/bolt passes over any part of a public highway
- Within 500 feet for a firearm, 250 feet for a crossbow or 150 feet for a bow of any school, playground, or an occupied factory or church
- Within 500 feet for a firearm, 250 feet for a crossbow or 150 feet for a bow of a dwelling, farm building or structure in occupation or use unless you own it, lease it, are an immediate member of the family, an employee, or have the owner's consent

You may hunt waterfowl over water within 500 feet of a dwelling or public structure as long as neither are within 500 feet in the direction you are shooting.

In New York State, nearly all species of wildlife are protected. Most species, including endangered species, songbirds, hawks and owls are fully protected and may not be taken. The few unprotected species include porcupine, red squirrel, woodchuck, chipmunk, English sparrow, starling, rock pigeon and monk parakeet. Unprotected species may be taken at any time without limit. However, a hunting license is required to hunt unprotected wildlife with a bow, crossbow or firearm.

Game species may be taken only during their open seasons and as summarized in this guide. Persons taking wildlife on licensed shooting preserves must comply with regulations governing those shooting preserves.

Reporting Your Game Harvest

- Deer, Bear, and Turkey harvests must be reported within seven days.
- Remember to save the bear's skull so DEC can collect a tooth to age the bear.
- You can report your harvest either by telephone or through the web. Reporting on the web is fast and convenient!

Phone: 1-866-426-3778

Web: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html>



Information You Will Need When Reporting

- Carcass Tag or Reporting Panel:

It's the LAW—
it's good management!

CUSTOMER ID #

12 DIGIT DOC #

CORRECT TAG TYPE

- For Spring Turkey:
 - » Spur length (none, less than 1/2", 1/2" or longer)
 - » Beard length (less than 3", 3" but less than 7 1/2", 7 1/2" or longer.
 - » Estimated weight
- For Fall Turkey:
 - » Remember to save a leg. We may request it to determine age and sex.

Special Seasons Designated for Young Hunters

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



Brianna Palumbo, Age 15 (left) with her brother Marco Palumbo, Age 13 (right). September 12, 2015 Early Canada Goose Season, Onondaga County.



PJ Doran, Age 14, mentored by father Pete Doran. October 10, 2015 Youth Deer Hunt, Greene County.

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.

Youth Hunts	
Youth Pheasant Hunt	
Northern and Eastern New York	September 24–25, 2016
Western New York	October 8–9, 2016
Long Island	October 29–30, 2016
Youth Waterfowl Hunt	
Waterfowl Hunting Zone	Tentative Dates
Northeastern	September 17–18, 2016
Southeastern	September 17–18, 2016
Lake Champlain	September 24–25, 2016
Western	October 1–2, 2016
Long Island	November 12–13, 2016
Youth Wild Turkey Hunt	
Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary) and Suffolk County	April 22–23, 2017
Youth Firearms Deer Hunt*	
Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary; excluding bowhunting-only WMUs)	Columbus Day Weekend; October 8–10, 2016

* At the time of publication, regulations were still pending that would allow youth to take bear during the youth firearms season. Be sure to check DEC's website for the latest regulation changes before heading afield this fall.

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

David J. Rodak, Age 14, mentored by father David N. Rodak. April 23, 2016 Youth Turkey Hunt, Saratoga County. David's turkey weighed 22 lbs 8 oz with a 10-inch beard. ▶



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 _____
(Print today's date above.)

Telephone Number _____
(Print phone number above.)

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

Environmental Conservation Officers

Report All Poachers and Polluters

1-844-DEC-ECOS
(844-332-3267)

Approximately 250 field ECOs patrol the entire state. Their job includes enforcement of fish and wildlife laws and state environmental quality laws. ECOs rely on the eyes and ears of our dedicated members of the sporting community to report suspected violations. Poachers and other violators are stealing from you, your children and our environment.

As soon as possible, call the hotline to report suspected violations. Dispatchers will assist you in filing a complaint. You may ask to have your name kept confidential or file anonymously. File complaints online at www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/67751.

Complaints are forwarded to an ECO for investigation. The sooner you call and the more detailed information you provide, the more likely the violator will be apprehended. Try to remember the “who, what, when, where and how” of the event.

Keep your distance. Do not approach or confront suspects. They may be dangerous, destroy evidence, or simply evade officers if forewarned.

Who did it? Provide names, age, sex, height, weight, clothing or vehicle descriptions, etc.

What occurred? What exactly is the nature of the violation? Examples — taking deer using bait, over limit, shooting from roadway, trespass, using tags of another, after hours, non-resident buying resident license.

When did it occur? Dates and times. Is it still in progress, ongoing or yet to happen?

Where did it occur? Provide exact street addresses, town/county, GPS locations or other ways the officer can locate the scene, suspects and evidence.

How did it occur? What methods or circumstances were used in the violation?

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

New York State is a member of IWVC, which is an agreement between states to share information regarding hunting, fishing and trapping convictions. The IWVC gives members the capability to honor each other's license revocations. Essentially, a violator convicted in one state may be barred from hunting, fishing or trapping in all member states, at the discretion of each state. By early 2015, 44 states were members, with 4 in the process of membership. Call NYSDEC Law Enforcement at (518) 402-8816 or visit <http://wildlifecrimestoppers.org/report-a-poacher-2/>

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Allegany

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Environmental Conservation Officers

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Marine Enforcement Units

Nassau/Suffolk

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