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

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. Hunters age 12–16 are exempt from antler point restrictions and may take any buck with antlers 3” or longer. 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 youth turkey and big game hunts. During the youth waterfowl hunt the accompanying adult must have a federal duck stamp and may carry a firearm if the respective regular season is open.

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

### Youth Hunts

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<th>Youth Wild Turkey Hunt</th>
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<td>Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary) and Suffolk County</td>
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**Youth Firearms Deer and Bear Hunt**

- **Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary; excluding bowhunting-only WMUs)**
  - Columbus Day Weekend; October 12–14, 2019

### New York is on Target!

**The National Archery in the Schools Program**

- A non-profit archery education program for grades 4-12
- Includes instructor training
- Uses standardized equipment
- Has 40,000 students participate annually

For more information, please contact Jill Trunko at 518-402-8967, or jillian.trunko@dec.ny.gov

### Take them outside the classroom. Way outside.

The NYSDEC has partnered with the Archery Trade Association to bring you a curriculum that includes over 20 introductory lessons to bowhunting for students ages 11-17. Contact Jill Trunko (518-402-8967) to bring Explore Bowhunting to your school!
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.

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 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 old, 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

Isabella Tolosi, age 13,
2018 Youth Turkey Hunt,
Columbia County
(photo Ed Tolosi, father)

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.
Turkey Hunting

BE TICK SAFE!
Ticks can spread disease, but not all bites will make you sick. Deer ticks may carry Lyme disease, the most common tick-borne disease in New York.

QUESTIONS?
- Contact the NYS Department of Health or your healthcare provider if you have symptoms of fever, rash, body aches or fatigue after a tick bite.
- See www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/lyme/

TICK REMOVAL
- Using tweezers, grab the tick as close to your skin as possible.
- Pull upward with steady, even pressure.
- Clean the bite area with soap and water, rubbing alcohol, or hydrogen peroxide.

Check yourself, your children and pets for ticks daily.

WomenHuntFishNY – Photo Contest Winner
Youth Hunting
Photo Credit: Deanna Nikiel (Alexis’ mother)
Subjects: Alexis Nikiel (age 9) Aleah Brauen (age 9)
Location: Bennington, NY
Home County: Wyoming County, NY

“It was our girls’ night and this time we brought her best friend Aleah along. They signed and dated the wall of the house that day and still talk about it! This is a perfect addition to that day... they will never forget it.”