



Responsibilities of

# Parents of Junior Hunters

with the  
**Permission Form**  
Required for Minors to Attend a Hunter Education Course

### Parents and Legal Guardians:

Please fill out and sign the form below. Your written permission is required by law to allow people under 16 years old to attend the hunter education course and handle firearms.

**Minimum age for course** ~ 11 years old. There are exceptions for hunting in other states where hunting is legal for younger people.

**Minimum age for license** ~ 12 years old. (Adult supervision required until age 16)

### About the Course:

Trained instructors certified by the Department of Environmental Conservation supervise lessons in the safe handling of firearms, and most courses include shooting exercises. Students under 12 years old are allowed to handle only air guns.

In addition to firearms safety, the hunter education course teaches basic outdoor skills and responsible hunting techniques. Emphasis is on helping students become people who will: • Respect people, wildlife, and nature; • Be safe, responsible and ethical hunters; • Appreciate the role of humans as a part of nature; and • support conservation.

Parents are urged to participate with youngsters in completing homework assignments. Discuss the lessons, and help students find the correct answers to quiz questions, without actually giving the answers away.

NOTE TO INSTRUCTORS: This form is your proof that instructors are authorized by the parent or guardian of the student whose name appears on this form to supervise that student in firearms handling and shooting exercises in your courses. Refer to your Sportsman Education Instructor Policies and Procedures Manual for rules regarding student age requirements and use of firearms by minors in courses. Keep this form for at least one year after the completion of the course.

DETACH AND RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Sportsman Education Program

## Permission to Handle and Shoot Firearms



I, \_\_\_\_\_ am the parent or legal guardian  
(Print name of parent or legal guardian above.) (Circle one choice above.)

of \_\_\_\_\_, whose date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print name of student above.) (Print birth date above.)

and I hereby give my permission for him or her to possess a rifle, shotgun, or airgun for the purpose of loading and firing under the immediate supervision, guidance, and instruction of a certified hunter education instructor or assistant instructor certified in hunter education by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, during a hunter education course.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent or legal guardian sign above.) (Print today's date above.) (Phone number above.)

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
David A. Paterson, Governor Alexander B. Grannis, Commissioner

## Outdoor Opportunities for Youngsters

People need licenses to fish, hunt, or trap. Courses are required for hunting and trapping. There are minimum age limits for hunting.

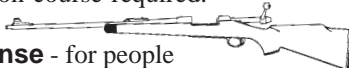
**Fishing.** No course required. No age limits. People 16 years old or over who fish or help another person fish in the State's fresh waters must generally be licensed.



**Hunting.** License required. Minimum age 12.

- Basic Hunter Education course required.

(Minimum 10 hours.)



**Junior Hunting License** - for people 12 through 15 years old. Small game hunting only.

- Parent or legal guardian must appear in person with applicant to co-sign license.
- Adult permission and supervision required. See details and permission form in this brochure and rules in Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide.

**Bowhunting.** All licensed hunters can use bows and arrows to hunt small game. To bowhunt deer and bear a special Bowhunter Education Course, and in most cases, a special bowhunting license is also required. Minimum age 14 years.

**Junior Archery License** - for people 14 and 15 years old to bowhunt deer and bear.

- BOTH basic Hunter Ed AND separate Bowhunter Education courses required.
- Parent or legal guardian must appear in person with applicant to co-sign license.
- Adult permission and supervision required. See rules in Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide.



**Trapping.** Trapping license required (any age).

- Special Trapper Education Course required.

**Junior Trapping License** for trappers under 16 years old.

- Parent or legal guardian or adult designated in writing by parent or legal guardian must appear in person with applicant to co-sign license.
- Adult supervision recommended.



## The Junior Small Game Hunting License ~ RULES

The Junior Small Game Hunting License is a learner's permit for hunters who are at least 12 years old, and less than 16 years old when the license is purchased.

### Requirements:

- Hunter Education course certificate.
- Proof of Age of the new hunter (birth certificate).
- Parent or Legal Guardian must go with youngsters to co-sign the license.
- Price: \$5.00 (residents and non-residents).

### When hunting...

Junior Hunters may hunt for small game only (as of 2007 -- check newer regulations) and can hunt only with adult supervision, as listed below:

#### A 12 or 13 year old...

must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or relative over age 21 who has a hunting (small game) or sportsman license. The relative must also have written permission of the parent or legal guardian.

#### A 14 or 15 year old...

must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or any person over 18, who has a small game or sportsman license. This person must also have written permission of the parent or legal guardian.

*"Accompanied" means that the licensed adult hunter must:*

1. Watch the minor at all times.
2. Communicate with the minor, providing advice and assistance to protect the minor, and prevent unsafe or illegal actions.

**Upon turning 16 years old** the Junior Hunting License entitles the bearer to hunt small game as an adult until the next license year. To hunt big game, a 16 year-old must obtain an adult small & big game hunting license. Adult supervision for big game hunters is required during the first year of big game hunting.

**See Current Hunting & Trapping Regulations Guide (at license outlets) for latest information and special hunting opportunities for young people.**

## Assume Control from Trigger to Target...and Beyond

1. Assume every gun to be loaded.
2. Control the Muzzle - safe direction.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target and beyond.

**Wear Hunter Orange to Control where others shoot!**



## To find Lists of Courses in your area, see...

- local newspapers "outdoors" section
- stores that sell hunting supplies
- rod & gun clubs
- your computer!



SPORTING GOODS



**Course Lists & Hunting Info on the Internet!**

**www.dec.ny.gov**

(Use the "Subject Index A-Z"; click on "H" to find "Hunter Education")

New York State Sportsman Education is a Federal Aid Project, funded in part by Federal Excise Taxes on your purchases of hunting equipment.