

General License Information

Purchasing a License

Hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses can be purchased at over 1,200 agent locations throughout NYS, over the phone via the DEC call center (1-866-933-2257/M-F, 8:30-4:30) and online through the DEC's Automated Licensing System, DECALS (www.dec.ny.gov/permits/365.html). To find an agent near you, visit www.dec.ny.gov/permits/95448.html. Visa & Mastercard are accepted online and over the phone.

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 an in-person or on-line course offered by DEC and is a minimum of seven hours in length. Once the course is complete, the individual must have the DEC hunter education certificate added to their DEC licensing 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 conducted in 1974 or later. 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 23 for details.

Residency

To qualify for an annual resident license, a person must live in New York State for more than 30 days immediately preceding the date of application. To qualify for a Lifetime License, a person must live in New York State for at least one year immediately preceding the date of purchase. Land ownership in New York does not make you a resident. Residency is that place where a person maintains a fixed, permanent

Continued on page 12

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 23). Hunt deer or bear with gun, muzzleloader, bow (with proof of bow education or a bow privilege), or crossbow (see page 23) 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
	12–15 (NYS Resident)	\$5
Junior Hunting (Ages 12–15)	12–15 (Non-Resident)	\$5
	Privileges:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 23) 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 23) during the regular season, or hunt with shotgun or muzzleloader during the January firearms season (permit required — see page 18) in Suffolk County, 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). <p>* Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.</p> <p>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 NYS's Harvest Information Program (https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6405.html) to hunt migratory game birds.</p>		
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)	\$15
	70+ (NYS Resident)	FREE
	Military Disabled ¹	FREE
	Patriot ²	\$15
	Native American ³	FREE
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$30
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 or bear during the early bear 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). Youth hunter will receive a deer of either sex carcass tag for use in the regular season, instead of a regular season buck tag. • 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). <p>* Accompanist must have a current hunting license and meet all requirements as specified on page 37.</p> <p>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+) Privileges: Hunt deer and bear with a muzzleloading firearm during muzzleloading season, and the January special firearms season in Suffolk County (WMU 1C). Hunt deer and bear with a crossbow (see page 23). Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license.	14–69 (NYS Resident)	\$15
	70+ (NYS Resident)	FREE
	Military Disabled ¹	FREE
	Patriot ²	\$15
	Native American ³	FREE
	14+ (Non-Resident)	\$30

Licenses, Privileges and Permits

Type	Age or Special Qualifier	Price
Deer Management Permit Application (Ages 12+) Privileges: Application for up to two antlerless deer tags issued through a random computer selection process. Tags are valid for hunting antlerless deer only (both antlers less than 3" long) in a specified Wildlife Management Unit. See DMP information on pages 28–29. Application deadline is October 1 annually. Qualifications: Must hold a current year NYS hunting license to apply and pay a non-refundable \$10 application fee. Fee is waived for hunters 12–15 years of age and holders of Lifetime (Sportsman) Licenses purchased prior to October 1, 2009.	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
Turkey Permit (Ages 12+) Privileges: Hunt turkey during fall and spring turkey seasons (see page 45). To hunt turkey, all hunters must possess a turkey permit. There are no exceptions. Qualifications: Current year NYS hunting license. Turkey tags are included with a Lifetime License (formerly Lifetime Sportsman).	12+ (NYS Resident)	\$10
	Military Disabled ¹	\$10
	Patriot ²	\$10
	Native American ³	\$10
	12+ (Non-Resident)	\$20
Trapping Privileges: Set traps for species during their appropriate seasons (see page 55 for detailed information). Qualifications: Trapper Education Certificate or previous trapping license. See page 37 for additional information on the mentoring program for trappers under 12 years of age.	12–15 (NYS Resident)	\$5
	16–69 (NYS Resident)	\$20
	70+ (NYS Resident)	\$5
	Military Disabled ¹	\$5
	Patriot ²	FREE
	Native American ³	FREE
	12–15 (Non-Resident)	\$5
	16+ (Non-Resident)	\$275

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. 1 annually. License Issuing Agents will replace licenses and tags free of charge between Sept. 1 and Nov. 1. After Nov. 1, there will be a charge up to \$15. If you have a lifetime license card, you will only have to replace carcass tags at a fee of \$10.

Lifetime License (Sportsman) (combined hunting and fishing licenses, 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

¹**Military Disabled:** Permanent status — must be a NYS resident and 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 be a NYS resident and 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 within the same calendar year 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 Poospatuck tribes and members of the Six Nations residing on reservations wholly or partially in New York State. Licenses must be obtained from participating tribal councils or DEC headquarters in Albany (518) 402-8843.

Deer Hunting Privileges and Tags

Resident and non-resident hunter licenses

- **Hunting or Junior Hunting (ages 14-15 only):** You will receive a Regular Season Deer Tag and a Regular Season Bear Tag.
- **Muzzleloading privilege:** You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag.
- **Junior bowhunting or bowhunting privilege:** You will receive a Bow/Mz Season Either Sex Tag. Junior bowhunters may also use this tag during the regular season, with bowhunting equipment.

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, with the appropriate implement.

Lifetime Licenses and Tags for Young Hunters

Young hunters who hold a lifetime hunting privilege and wish to receive their tags must first take the appropriate hunter safety training course and have it entered in their DECALS profile. To have the course added, please call the DEC call center at 1-866-933-2257 (M-F, 8:30-4:30). 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 from a 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 www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html for details. It's the law!

See page 13.

General License Information

Residency continued from page 10

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. For a complete list of valid residency proof documents please see www.dec.ny.gov/permits/95452.html#Res.

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.

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 it was issued (except for Deer Management Permits—see pages 28–29).
- It is illegal 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.



Lauren Nowak in Monroe County with her first deer.

Stamps / Donations		
Type	Age or Special Qualifier	Price
Habitat & Access Stamp Donations are used to create or improve fish and wildlife habitat and improve access to those resources for recreational 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.	16+	\$25

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.dec.ny.gov/permits/6405.html

Qualifications: Validated by holder's signature on the face of the stamp. Hunter must also possess a current year NYS hunting license.

- Do NOT heat laminate your license. High temperatures will destroy the license and tags and turn them black. If destroyed, there is a fee for replacement.
- Sign the back of your license/privilege panel.

Back Tags

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

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 farmlands 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 Hunter 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 lost current year 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.

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 longbow authorization

This authorization 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. It does not allow for the use of a crossbow.

To qualify for a Modified Longbow Authorization, 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.

How To Properly Fill Out Your Carcass Tag and Report Your Harvest

Carcass Tag

REG SEASON DEER - RES

Doc# 1234-5678-9013 2020-21

Jane Doe 05/31/1982

ID # 314114431020 Issued 08/24/2020 10:52 AM

Fill out both sides immediately upon harvest

Kill Info

Date 11-28-20 Sex M F

County Green Antler Pts L 3 R 3

Town Cairo Reg Season

WMU 4H Bowhunting

Muzzleloading



It's as Easy as 1 - 2 - 3!!

- 1 Fill in the date, location, biological and season information on the front of your tag.
- 2 Mark or cut out month and day of kill AND sign the back of your tag.
- 3 Report your harvest! See details below.

Use pen or permanent marker.

17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31

1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16

May Jun Jul Aug **Nov** Oct Sep

Mark or Cut Out month & day of kill

HuntFishNY

Check out DEC's mobile app!
NY Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife

Download FREE from the
Apple App Store or Google Play!

Now includes an electronic license & game harvest reporting feature!

For more information on the app & game harvest reporting, visit:
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/8316.html
Report by phone: 866-426-3778

EnCon Officer 24/7 Dispatch - call 844-332-3267

All Licensees: I hereby affirm under penalty of perjury that information provided on this form is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. False statements are punishable as a Class A misdemeanor pursuant to Section 210.45 of the Penal Law.

Signature Jane Doe Hole

2

Parents of Junior Licensees must sign and provide supervision.
Parent's Signature _____

Hole for attaching to your game

It is against the law to improperly or incompletely fill out your carcass tag.

Remember: Take It • Tag It • Report It

3 Reporting Your Game Harvest

- Deer, Bear and Turkey harvests must be reported within 7 days of take.
- You can report your harvest by phone, online or through our new mobile app (see page 8 for details).
- Reporting online and through the new mobile app is simple, fast and convenient!

Remember to save the bear's skull so DEC can collect a tooth to age the bear.



Information You Will Need When Reporting

CUSTOMER ID #

12 DIGIT DOC #

CORRECT TAG TYPE

REG SEASON DEER - RES

Doc# 1234-5678-9013 2020-21

Jane Doe 05/31/1982

ID # 314114431020 Issued 08/24/2020 10:52 AM

Fill out both sides immediately upon harvest

Kill Info

Date 11-28-20 Sex M F

County Green Antler Pts L 3 R 3

Town Cairo Reg Season

WMU 4H Bowhunting

Muzzleloading

Jane Doe Valid 09/01/2020

ID# 314114431020 08/31/2021

You must call to report your deer, turkey or bear within 7 days of take.
To report Call Toll-free: 1-866-426-3778(GAMERPT)
or visit www.dec.ny.gov

	Date of Kill	Reported
DMP Deer Tag-4H	1234-5678-9012	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reg Season Deer	1234-5678-9013	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bear Tag	1234-5678-9014	<input type="checkbox"/>

- For Spring Turkey:
 - » Spur length (none, less than 1/2", 1/2" or longer)
 - » Beard length (less than 3", 3" or greater but less than 7 1/2", or 7 1/2" or longer.
 - » Estimated weight

- For Fall Turkey:
 - » Remember to save a leg. We will request it to determine age and sex.

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

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. Scopes or fiber-optic sights may be used at any time. You must possess a New York State Pistol Permit to hunt with a muzzleloading pistol.

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.

Hunt Safe — Hunt Smart

- Assume every gun to be loaded.
- Control the muzzle, point in a safe direction.
- Keep finger off the trigger until firing.
- Be sure of your target and beyond.
- Wear hunter orange.

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 2)
- 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 8 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.

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, or if:

- » 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 55.

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.

Discharge of Firearms, Crossbows and Bows

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.

Protected and Unprotected Wildlife

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.

Hunter Education

Hunter Education Requirements

All first-time hunters, bowhunters, and trappers must pass one or more courses before they can purchase a license. Traditionally, hunter and trapper education have been in-person courses taught by trained volunteer instructors certified by DEC. In April 2020, DEC began offering an on-line hunter education course in response to COVID-19. Be sure to check the DEC website about the availability of both in-person and on-line courses before registering.

In-Person Hunter Education Course

In-person courses have a field day where new hunters can get hands-on experience. All courses are free of charge, but space may be limited. As hunting seasons approach, classes fill quickly. **SIGN UP EARLY!**

All in-person hunter and trapper education courses require the completion of homework prior to attending the course. Proof of completed homework must be brought to the course. Homework may take several hours to complete, so start it well in advance.

To obtain study materials to complete the homework requirement, download the free manual and worksheet from the DEC website. Visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7860.html for more information on materials, including a list of courses and course registration.

On-line Hunter Education Course

All the requirements to earn a New York State hunter education certificate can be met by completing DEC's on-line course and passing the exam. Upon passing, you will receive your hunter education certificate so you can purchase a hunting license.

You must be a New York State resident. The cost of the course is \$19.95 and can be accessed at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/92267.html>.

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.



Special Seasons Designated for Young Hunters

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



Youth Pheasant Hunt at the Wood and Brook Sportsman Club in Crittenden, NY.



Hailey Masterson with her first pheasant.

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 antlered or antlerless deer and/or a bear with a firearm during this season. 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. During the youth waterfowl hunt the accompanying adult must have a federal duck stamp. Adults are not allowed to possess a firearm, crossbow or bow or to harvest an animal while accompanying a junior hunter during the youth hunts.

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

Note: Junior hunters (ages 12-15) must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter whenever they are afield in pursuit of game, not just during designated special youth seasons.

Youth Hunts	
Youth Pheasant Hunt	
Northern and Eastern New York	September 26-27, 2020
Western New York	October 10-11, 2020
Long Island	October 24-25, 2020
Youth Waterfowl Hunt	
Waterfowl Hunting Zone	Dates
Northeastern	September 19-20, 2020
Southeastern	September 19-20, 2020
Lake Champlain	September 26-27, 2020
Western	October 3-4, 2020
Long Island	November 7-8, 2020
Youth Wild Turkey Hunt	
Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary) and Suffolk County	April 24-25, 2021
Youth Firearms Deer and Bear Hunt	
Upstate NY (north of Bronx-Westchester Co. boundary; excluding bowhunting-only WMUs)	Columbus Day Weekend; October 10-12, 2020

New York is on Target!

The National Archery in the Schools Program:

- Is an archery program for grades 4-12
- Is taught during school in the curriculum
- Includes instructor training
- Uses standardized equipment
- Has 40,000 students participate annually



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



Take them outside the classroom. Way outside.

EXPLORE
BOWHUNTING



The NYSDEC has partnered with the Archery Trade Association to bring you a next step archery program with curriculum that includes over 20 introductory lessons to bowhunting for youth ages 11-17.

Contact the NY Explore Bowhunting coordinator for local instructor training opportunities.
P: 518-402-8967 E: jillian.trunko@dec.ny.gov

Junior Big Game Hunting

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 accompanying adult 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 accompanying adult 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 accompanying adult must wear fluorescent orange or pink: a shirt or jacket with 250 sq inches of solid/patterned fluorescent orange or pink (the pattern must be no less than 50% fluorescent orange or pink) OR a hat with no less than 50% of the exterior consisting of solid fluorescent orange or pink AND visible from 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 accompanying adult needs to have at least 1 year of hunting experience AND have a license to hunt big game in the same seasons.

Junior Trapping

Trappers under 12 years of age:

- May accompany and assist a licensed trapper in all aspects of trapping without possessing a trapping license themselves.
- The licensed trapper must have at least 3 years of trapping experience and may be a parent, legal guardian, or someone 18 years or older designated in writing (use the form below).

Junior Trappers 12 years or older:

- Must complete NY's Trapper Education Program whether they will be trapping alone or with an adult licensed trapper.

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

Hunters Lucas, Nick, and Merganzer the lab after a successful youth hunt at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.



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

General Regulations

- You may buy only one turkey permit per year.
- If you have filled your bag limit, you may call turkeys for another hunter, but you may not carry a bow, crossbow, or firearm. You may call turkeys to aid another hunter only if you are licensed to hunt wild turkey in New York and have a valid turkey permit.
- If you have taken a turkey that is unfit for consumption, authorized DEC staff may issue a special permit to take another. You will have to surrender the carcass. Call your wildlife or law enforcement office (see page 6).

Turkey Hunters Needed for Grouse Survey

DEC is seeking spring turkey hunters to participate in a survey to help monitor grouse populations.

For more information:

- E-mail us at wildlife@dec.ny.gov and type "Grouse Drumming Survey" in the subject line, or
- Call 518-402-8883, or
- Visit www.dec.ny.gov and search for "drumming survey."

Manner of Taking

- You must carry your hunting license and turkey permit while you hunt.
- You may hunt with a bow or crossbow; however, crossbows may not be used to take wild turkeys in Westchester or Suffolk counties.
- You may hunt with a shotgun or handgun only when using shot no larger than #2 and no smaller than #8.
- You may not take a turkey with a rifle or air gun, or with a handgun firing a bullet.
- You may use a muzzleloading shotgun.
- You may not hunt with a dog during the spring season. You may hunt with a dog during the fall season.
- You may not use bait to hunt turkey.
- You may not use an electronic calling or amplifying device to locate or hunt turkeys during the open season.
- You may use decoys. You may not use a live decoy when turkey hunting.
- A scope of any type is allowed.

Reward

Protect wild turkeys against illegal hunting. Their future depends on you!

The National Wild Turkey Federation is offering a \$200 reward to anyone giving information and testimony leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone illegally hunting or killing a wild turkey in New York State.

1-844-DEC-ECOS

Tagging, Possession and Reporting

- Immediately after taking a wild turkey, you must fill out the appropriate carcass tag in ink, mark or cut out the date and month of kill, sign the back, and attach it to the carcass.
- The carcass tag must stay attached to the turkey carcass until it is prepared for eating.
- You may give your turkey to another person.
- You must attach a tag with the following information to the turkey carcass:
 - » Your name
 - » Your address
 - » Your hunting license number
 - » Turkey permit carcass tag number
 - » The recipient's name
 - » The recipient's address
- You must report your harvest within 7 days via phone (1-866-GAMERPT), online (www.dec.ny.gov) or through our HuntFishNY mobile app (see page 8).



Fall Turkey Season

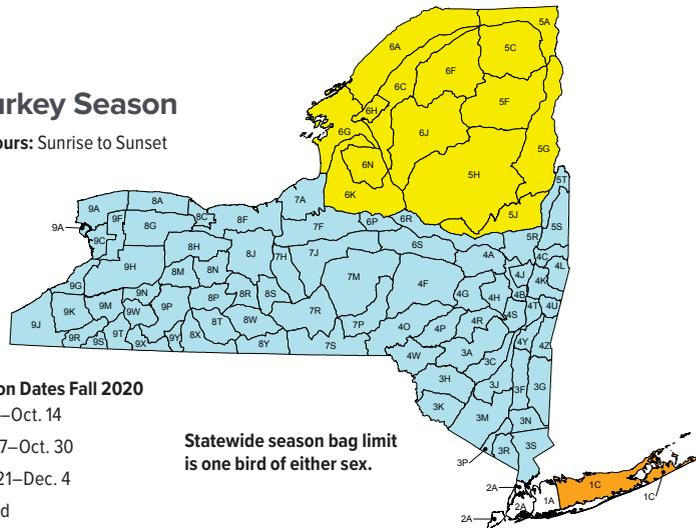
- You may take a bird of either sex.
- There is one carcass tag for the fall season and it may be used in any fall turkey hunting zone. Immediately after taking a turkey, you must fill out the carcass tag in ink and attach it to the bird.
- **If you take a turkey, save one of its legs.** You will receive instructions about what to do with the leg when you report your harvest. The legs are used for age and sex information.

Spring Turkey Season

- In the spring, you may take two bearded birds. You may only take one bird per day.
- Fill out the carcass tag and attach it to the bird.
- You do not need to save and send in turkey legs in the spring. You do need to take careful spur, beard, and weight measurements for harvest reporting.
 1. Spur measurements: Spurs should be measured from the tip of the spur to the base of the spur, where it emerges from the scaly part of the leg. Measure to the nearest ¼ inch. Do not measure to the forward edge of the leg, only to the base of the spur.
 2. Beard measurements: Beards should be measured from the tip of the beard to the base, where it emerges from the skin. Put the end of your ruler against the base of the beard and extend the beard along the body of the ruler. Measure to the nearest ¼ inch.
 3. Record the weight of the turkey to the nearest pound.

Fall Turkey Season

Hunting Hours: Sunrise to Sunset



Spring Turkey Season (no map)

Hunting Hours

One half-hour before sunrise to noon

Area Open

All of upstate New York north of the Bronx-Westchester County boundary

Season Dates

May 1–May 31

Season Bag Limits

Two bearded turkeys (**one bird per day**)

Spring Youth Hunt

Season Dates

April 24–25, 2021

Area Open

Same as regular spring season plus Suffolk County (WMU 1C)

Eligible Hunters

Youth 12–15 years of age

Bag Limit

One bearded turkey

Turkey Hunting Tips

Successful turkey hunters sit and call.

Don't wear red, white, blue or black.

Most turkey hunting injuries happen when one hunter stalks another hunter.

DON'T TRY TO STALK TURKEY!

Assume anything that sounds like a turkey is a human (calls, footsteps).

If you see another hunter:

- **Don't move, wave or nod.**
- **Don't make turkey or animal sounds.**
- **Do speak up clearly, saying "STOP."**

If you see a turkey:

Be **100%** sure of your target and beyond. To prevent another hunter from mistaking you for a gobbler, avoid using a turkey "reaper fan".



Hunter Jennifer Kailbourne after a successful turkey hunt.

Turkey Hunting

Spring Youth Hunt

Eligible hunters are 12–15 years of age and hold a Junior Hunting License and a Turkey Permit.

All youth hunters must be accompanied by an adult, as required by law for a Junior Hunting License (see pages 36 and 37).

The accompanying adult must have a current hunting license and Turkey Permit. He/she may assist the youth hunter (including calling), but may not carry a firearm, crossbow or bow, or kill or attempt to kill a wild turkey during the youth hunt. Crossbows may only be used by licensees who are 14 years of age or older.

The bag limit for the youth hunt is one bearded bird. This bird becomes part of the youth's regular season bag limit of two bearded birds. A second bird may be taken beginning May 1.

All other wild turkey hunting regulations remain in effect.



Lori Suave, her daughter Alexis, and her daughter's friend Jessica.

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.

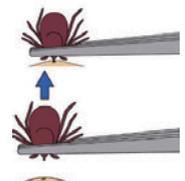


QUESTIONS?

- 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/

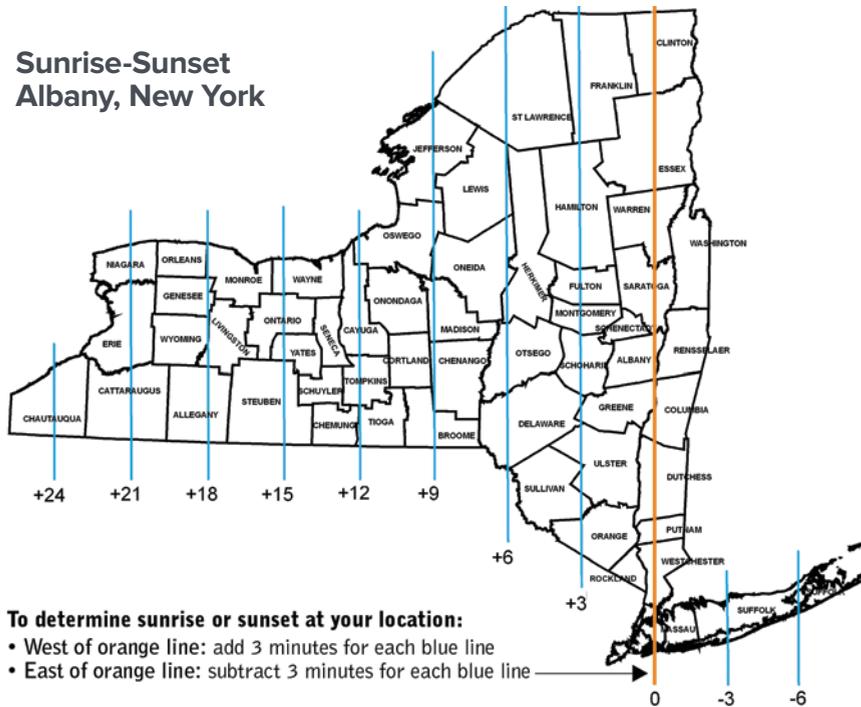
TICK REMOVAL

- 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.

Sunrise-Sunset Albany, New York



To determine sunrise or sunset at your location:

- West of orange line: add 3 minutes for each blue line
- East of orange line: subtract 3 minutes for each blue line



When Hunting for Wildlife, All Shooting Hours are Sunrise to Sunset, Except:

- Unprotected wildlife—any hour.
- Furbearers - after sunrise on the opening day of each respective season, bobcat, raccoon, skunk, red fox, gray fox, opossum and coyote may be taken at any time of day or night.
- For most migratory game bird species, including ducks, geese, snipe, rails— $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Spring turkey— $\frac{1}{2}$ hour before sunrise to noon,

Day	SEPT		OCT		NOV		DEC		JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY	
	Rise AM	Set PM																
1	6:20	7:28	6:52	6:35	6:29	4:47	7:05	4:22	7:25	4:32	7:08	5:08	6:30	5:44	6:36	7:21	5:49	7:55
2	6:21	7:26	6:53	6:33	6:30	4:45	7:07	4:22	7:25	4:33	7:07	5:10	6:28	5:46	6:35	7:22	5:47	7:56
3	6:22	7:24	6:54	6:31	6:32	4:44	7:08	4:21	7:25	4:34	7:06	5:11	6:26	5:47	6:33	7:23	5:46	7:57
4	6:23	7:23	6:56	6:30	6:33	4:43	7:09	4:21	7:25	4:35	7:05	5:12	6:25	5:48	6:31	7:24	5:45	7:58
5	6:24	7:21	6:57	6:28	6:34	4:42	7:10	4:21	7:25	4:36	7:04	5:14	6:23	5:49	6:29	7:25	5:44	8:00
6	6:25	7:19	6:58	6:26	6:35	4:40	7:11	4:21	7:25	4:37	7:03	5:15	6:21	5:51	6:28	7:27	5:42	8:01
7	6:26	7:18	6:59	6:25	6:37	4:39	7:11	4:21	7:24	4:38	7:02	5:16	6:20	5:52	6:26	7:28	5:41	8:02
8	6:27	7:16	7:00	6:23	6:38	4:38	7:12	4:21	7:24	4:39	7:00	5:18	6:18	5:53	6:24	7:29	5:40	8:03
9	6:28	7:14	7:01	6:21	6:39	4:37	7:13	4:21	7:24	4:40	6:59	5:19	6:16	5:54	6:23	7:30	5:39	8:04
10	6:30	7:12	7:02	6:20	6:40	4:36	7:14	4:21	7:24	4:41	6:58	5:20	6:15	5:55	6:21	7:31	5:37	8:05
11	6:31	7:10	7:04	6:18	6:42	4:35	7:15	4:21	7:23	4:42	6:56	5:22	6:13	5:57	6:19	7:32	5:36	8:06
12	6:32	7:09	7:05	6:16	6:43	4:34	7:16	4:21	7:23	4:43	6:55	5:23	6:11	5:58	6:18	7:33	5:35	8:07
13	6:33	7:07	7:06	6:15	6:44	4:33	7:17	4:21	7:23	4:44	6:54	5:24	6:10	5:59	6:16	7:35	5:34	8:08
14	6:34	7:05	7:07	6:13	6:45	4:32	7:17	4:22	7:22	4:46	6:52	5:25	7:08	7:00	6:14	7:36	5:33	8:09
15	6:35	7:03	7:08	6:11	6:47	4:31	7:18	4:22	7:22	4:47	6:51	5:27	7:06	7:01	6:13	7:37	5:32	8:10
16	6:36	7:02	7:09	6:10	6:48	4:30	7:19	4:22	7:21	4:48	6:50	5:28	7:04	7:02	6:11	7:38	5:31	8:11
17	6:37	7:00	7:11	6:08	6:49	4:30	7:19	4:22	7:21	4:49	6:48	5:29	7:03	7:04	6:10	7:39	5:30	8:12
18	6:38	6:58	7:12	6:07	6:50	4:29	7:20	4:23	7:20	4:50	6:47	5:31	7:01	7:05	6:08	7:40	5:29	8:13
19	6:39	6:56	7:13	6:05	6:52	4:28	7:21	4:23	7:20	4:52	6:45	5:32	6:59	7:06	6:06	7:41	5:28	8:14
20	6:40	6:54	7:14	6:04	6:53	4:27	7:21	4:24	7:19	4:53	6:44	5:33	6:57	7:07	6:05	7:43	5:27	8:15
21	6:41	6:53	7:15	6:02	6:54	4:27	7:22	4:24	7:18	4:54	6:42	5:34	6:56	7:08	6:03	7:44	5:26	8:16
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23	6:43	6:49	7:18	5:59	6:56	4:25	7:23	4:25	7:17	4:57	6:39	5:37	6:52	7:11	6:00	7:46	5:25	8:18
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28	6:49	6:40	7:24	5:52	7:02	4:23	7:24	4:29	7:12	5:03	6:31	5:43	6:43	7:16	5:53	7:52	5:21	8:23
29	6:50	6:38	7:25	5:51	7:03	4:22	7:24	4:29	7:11	5:04			6:42	7:17	5:52	7:53	5:21	8:24
30	6:51	6:37	7:27	5:49	7:04	4:22	7:25	4:30	7:10	5:06			6:40	7:19	5:50	7:54	5:20	8:24
31			7:28	5:48			7:25	4:31	7:09	5:07			6:38	7:20			5:20	8:25