SEASON DATES: October 6-8, 2018. Unfilled Youth Deer Permits are also valid on private land during the first Firearm Deer Season (November 16-18, 2018), but on public land they may only be used on sites that allow unrestricted hunting to any hunter with a valid county permit.

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset

OPEN COUNTIES: All counties EXCEPT Cook, DuPage and Lake Counties, and that portion of Kane County east of State Route 47.

AGE RESTRICTIONS: The Youth Deer Season is open only to hunters who have not reached their 18th birthday prior to the opening date of the season.

RESIDENCY: The same Youth Deer Permit is available to eligible resident and nonresident youths regardless of residency.

OVER-THE-COUNTER (OTC) PERMIT AVAILABILITY: Youth Deer Permits for all open counties will be sold over-the-counter from DNR Direct license vendors beginning August 7th till the end of the season.

FEE: Over-the-counter Youth Deer Season county permits - $10.50

LICENSE/PERMIT REQUIREMENTS: All eligible youth hunters must have a current, valid Youth Deer Permit and a Hunting License (may be a regular, youth or apprentice license), unless exempt. Hunters that are 16 years of age or older must also have a Habitat Stamp.

SUPERVISOR REQUIREMENTS: If using an Apprentice Hunting License or a Youth Hunting License, each Youth Deer Hunt participant must be accompanied by a non-hunting parent, guardian or grandparent who has a valid Illinois hunting license. All other hunters participating in the Youth Deer Hunt must each be accompanied by a non-hunting parent, guardian or responsible adult. All supervisors who are residents of Illinois must have in their possession a valid Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) Card, and all supervisors who are nonresidents must possess a valid Illinois hunting license. The non-hunting supervisor must wear the orange garments required of gun deer hunters, and must remain with the hunting youth so as to have the youth under immediate control. Each supervisor may only accompany a single youth at any given time during the hunt. The supervising adult shall be criminally liable for the actions of the youth in the hunting party, and be subject to the criminal penalties provided by law.

BAG LIMITS: Hunters may purchase only ONE Youth Permit (either-sex) for one of the open counties. The bag limit is one (1) deer per legally authorized permit. All either-sex permits are subject to the following restrictions: no hunter, regardless of the quantity or type of permits in his/her possession, may harvest more than two (2) antlered deer during a year, including the youth, archery, muzzleloader and firearm seasons. Deer seasons are considered to be in the same year if their opening dates fall within the same 12-month period that begins on July 1.
LEGAL FIREARMS:
1. Shotgun, loaded with slugs only, of not larger than 10 nor smaller than 20 gauge, not capable of firing more than 3 consecutive slugs; or

2. A single or double barreled muzzleloading rifle of at least .45 caliber shooting a single projectile through a barrel of at least sixteen inches in length. A muzzleloading rifle is defined as a rifle that is incapable of being loaded from the breech end. Allowable ignition systems are limited to percussion (cap or primer), wheellock, matchlock, flintlock, or electronic ignition. Only black powder or a black powder substitute such as Pyrodex may be used. Modern smokeless powders (nitrocellulose-based) are an approved blackpowder substitute only in muzzleloading firearms that are specifically designed for their use.

Muzzleloaders are considered “unloaded” IF: the percussion cap/primer is removed; OR prime powder has been removed from the frizzen pan with the frizzen open and hammer all the way down; OR prime powder has been removed from the flashpan and wheel is unwound; OR prime powder has been removed and match is not lit; OR the battery is removed from the electronic ignition.

LEGAL AMMUNITION: All firearm projectiles, whether shotgun or muzzleloader, must be at least .44 caliber. A wad or sleeve is not considered a projectile or part of the projectile. Non-expanding, military-style full metal jacket bullets cannot be used to harvest white-tailed deer; only soft point or expanding bullets (including copper/copper alloy rounds designed for hunting) are legal ammunition.

REPORTING HARVEST OF DEER: Successful hunters must register their harvest by 10:00 p.m. on the same calendar day the deer was taken by calling the toll-free telephone check-in system at 1-866-ILCHECK or by accessing the on-line check-in system at https://www.il.wildlifelicense.com/harvestReport/harvestReport.php. They will be provided with a confirmation number to verify that they checked in their harvest. This number must be written by the hunter on the temporary harvest tag (leg tag). If the condition of the tag precludes writing on the tag in the appropriate space (i.e., bloody, etc.), the confirmation number shall be written elsewhere on the tag, or onto a piece of paper and attached to the deer along with the temporary harvest tag. The deer must remain whole (or field dressed) until it has been checked in. In instances where deer are checked in while the hunter is still afield, the deer may not be dismembered while afield beyond quartering the animal. If quartered, all parts of the carcass (except the entrails removed during field dressing) must be transported together and evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to one quarter. Evidence of sex is:

1) For a buck: head with antlers attached to carcass or attached testicle, scrotum or penis.
2) For a doe: head attached to carcass or attached udder (mammary) or vulva.

The harvest tag (leg tag) and confirmation number must remain attached to the deer until it is at the legal residence of the person who legally took or possessed the deer and final processing is completed. If the head/antlers are delivered to a taxidermist for processing, the confirmation number must be recorded on the "head tag" portion of the permit and both must remain with the deer while at the taxidermist's. If the carcass is taken to a meat processor, the harvest tag (leg tag) with confirmation number must remain with the deer while it is processed and until it is at the legal residence of the person who legally took or possessed the deer. Persons delivering deer/parts of deer to a tanner for processing must supply the tanner with either their deer permit number, their confirmation number, or a written certification by the person from whom the deer was received that the specimen was legally taken or obtained.

Please call 217-782-7305 or email us at DNR.Permits1@illinois.gov if you have any questions.
Illinois Youth Deer Hunt: Oct. 6-8, 2018
Public Land Sites Open to Hunting

The following sites are open to youth hunting during the youth deer hunt (contact the site for other special site regulations; some sites may have hunter quotas and require participation in a drawing). The sites are listed by the county (or counties) in which they are found.

- Adams – Mississippi River (Pools 21 and 22)
- Adams/Brown – Siloam Springs SP
- Alexander – Cape Bend SFWA, Horseshoe Lake SFWA
- Calhoun/Jersey – Mississippi River SFWA
- Cass – Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA
- Clinton – Carlyle Lake (East Fork Unit only), Eldon Hazlet SP (North Allen Branch Unit only)
- Crawford – Crawford County SFWA
- Effingham – Wildcat Hollow SHA
- Fayette – Carlyle Lake SFWA
- Franklin – Campbell Pond SHA
- Hancock – Cedar Glen SNA
- Henderson – Mississippi River (Pool 18); Big River SF
- Iroquois – Iroquois SFWA
- Jackson – Kinkaid Lake SFWA; Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area
- Jackson/Union – Giant City SP
- Jackson/Williamson/Union – Crab Orchard NWR
- Jasper – Meeker SHA, Newton Lake SFWA
- Jefferson/Franklin – Rend Lake SFWA and COE managed areas of Rend Lake
- Jefferson/Hamilton – Ten Mile Creek SFWA
- Jersey – Copperhead Hollow SFWA, Pere Marquette SP
- Jo Daviess – Apple River Canyon (Salem/Thompson Units), Hanover Bluff, Rall Woods, Tapley Woods, Upper Mississippi River NWFR (Lost Mound Unit, plus IDNR properties Eagles Landing and Stewardship Park; a special permit is required from USFWS), Wards Grove, Winston Tunnel
- Johnson – Cypress Pond SNA, Deer Pond SNA, Ferne Clyffe (Cedar Draper Units only), Glass Hill SNA, Skinner Farm SHA, Wise Ridge SNA
• Johnson/Pulaski/Massac – Cache River SNA
• Kankakee – Kankakee River SP
• Knox – Spoon River SF
• Lawrence – Chauncey Marsh
• Lee – Green River SWA
• Marshall – Marshall SFWA
• Mason – Sand Ridge SF
• Massac – Fort Massac SP, Mermet Lake SFWA, Seilbeck Forest SNA
• Menard County – Oakford CA
• Mercer – Mississippi River (Pool 17)
• Moultrie – Lake Shelbyville Project Lands in Moultrie County including Shelbyville SFWA
• Montgomery – Coffeen Lake SFWA (Upland Management Area only)
• Peoria – Portions of Marshall SFWA
• Perry – Pyramid SRA (East Conant, Galum and Old Park Management units only)
• Pike – Mississippi River (Pool 24), Ray Norbut SFWA (including the Dutch Creek unit)
• Pope – Dixon Springs SP, Dog Island
• Randolph – Turkey Bluffs SFWA
• Randolph/St. Clair/Monroe – Kaskaskia River SFWA
• Saline – Saline County SFWA
• Sangamon – Sangamon County CA
• Shelby – Hidden Springs SF, Lake Shelbyville Project Lands (NOT including Eagle Creek and Wolf Creek State Recreation Areas)
• Schuyler/Brown – Weinberg King SFWA (including Scripps and Spunky Bottoms units)
• Tazewell – Mackinaw SFWA
• Union – Trail of Tears SF, and Union County SFWA
• Union/Alexander – Devil’s Island SFWA

Note: Crab Orchard, Dixon Springs, and Lake Le-Aqua-Na offer youth firearm hunts during the regular statewide firearm deer season and require a site-specific firearm deer permit for that hunt.