2017 Youth Deer
Hunting Permit Information

SEASON DATES

October 7-9, 2017. Unfilled Youth Deer Permits are also valid on private land during the first Firearm Deer Season (November 17-19, 2017), but on public land they may only be used on sites that allow unrestricted hunting to any hunter with a valid county permit.

Fee

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

OVER-THE-COUNTER (OTC) AVAILABLE DATES

Open County OTC Permits will be available August 1st till the end of the season October 9th

NOTE: Youth Deer Permits will be sold over the counter from DNR Direct License and Permit vendors

GENERAL INFORMATION

Youth Deer Permits are available to Residents and Non-Residents.

The Youth Deer Season is only open to hunters who have not reached their 18th birthday prior to the opening date of the season. Hunters may purchase only ONE single permit (either-sex) for one of the open counties.

Open Counties: All counties except Cook, DuPage and Lake Counties, and that portion of Kane County east of State Route 47.

Shooting Hours: ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset

Bag limits: One 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 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.

Specifications of legal firearms and their respective legal ammunition for the Youth Deer Hunt are:

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;

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;

3) The minimum size of the firearm projectile shall be .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.

The standards and specifications for muzzleloading firearms for the Youth Deer Hunt are:

1) A muzzleloading firearm is defined as a firearm that is incapable of being loaded from the breech end.

2) 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.
3) Percussion caps, wheellock, matchlock or flint type ignition only may be used, except the Connecticut Valley Arms (CVA) electronic ignition shall be legal to use.

4) Removal of percussion cap, or removal of prime powder from frizzen pan with frizzen open and hammer all the way down, or removal of prime powder from flashpan and wheel unwound, or removal of prime powder and match with match not lit, or removal of the battery from the CVA electronic ignition muzzleloader, shall constitute an unloaded muzzleloading firearm.

All eligible youth hunters must have a current, valid Youth Deer Permit. Hunters must have an apprentice or youth hunting license, or they must have completed a State-approved Hunter Education course and have a hunting license, unless exempt.

Each hunter participating in the Youth Deer Hunt while using an Apprentice Hunter License or a Youth Hunting License must be accompanied by a non-hunting, validly-licensed (Illinois hunting license) parent, guardian or grandparent. All other hunters participating in the Youth Deer Hunt must each be accompanied by a non-hunting supervisor (parent, guardian or responsible adult) who has a valid Illinois hunting license or who has in his or her possession a valid Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) Card. 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.

**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](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.

**IDNR & Public Land Sites Open to Illinois Youth Deer Hunt – Oct. 7-9, 2017**

The following IDNR 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):

- 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, Eldon Hazlet SP – North Allen Branch Unit
Crawford – Crawford County SFWA
Effingham – Wildcat Hollow SHA
Fayette – Carlyle Lake SFWA
Franklin – Campbell Pond SHA
Hancock – Cedar Glen SNA
Henderson – Big River State Forest (new in 2017); Mississippi River – Pool 18
Iroquois County – Iroquois County SFWA
Jackson – Kinkaid Lake SFWA; Burning Star SFWA
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 north of Highway 154
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 NFWR – Lost Mound Unit to include IDNR properties Eagles Landing and Stewardship Park (special permit 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
Knox – Spoon River SF
Lawrence – Chauncey Marsh
Lee – Green River SFWA
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 (Pools 22 &24), Ray Norbut SFWA, Ray Norbut – 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
Will County – Kankakee River State Park

**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 more information on the Youth Deer Hunt in Illinois, check the IDNR website at [www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/deer](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/deer).