

2024 Illinois Youth Deer Hunting Information

SEASON DATES: **October 12-14, 2024** Unfilled Youth Deer Permits are also valid on private land during the first Firearm Deer Season (November 22-24, 2024), but on public land they may only be used on sites that allow unrestricted hunting; unfilled permits are not valid on public land sites that limit the number of hunters during the firearm season via the use of a site permit quota.

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.

Youth Deer Hunt Permits will authorize the holder to hunt in *any* of the open counties of the State, on property where permission to hunt has been obtained from the property owner.

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 license vendors August 6 – October 14, 2024.

FEE: Over-the-counter Youth Deer Hunting Permits - \$10.00 (additional charges apply)

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

SUPERVISOR REQUIREMENTS: Each hunter participating in the Youth Deer Hunting Season while using an Apprentice Hunter License or a Youth Hunting License must be accompanied by a non-hunting, validly-licensed (Illinois hunting license) adult who is 21 years of age or older. Additionally, hunters participating in the Youth Deer Hunting Season on **public property** must be supervised by a validly licensed resident or nonresident who is 21 years of age or older *and has a hunter education certificate*. All other hunters (using other types of hunting licenses or license-exempt) participating in the Youth Deer Hunting Season must each be accompanied by a non-hunting supervisor (parent, guardian or responsible adult). A nonresident supervisor must have a valid Illinois hunting license. The non-hunting supervisor must wear the solid blaze orange/pink garments required of gun deer hunters and must remain with the hunting youth so as to have the youth under immediate control. Youths participating in the first firearm deer season using only an unfilled Youth Deer Permit (i.e., youths without a firearm deer season permit for that county) must be accompanied by a supervisor as described in this section, but, during the firearm deer season, that supervisor may also hunt so long as he/she has the appropriate licenses and permits. 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). 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 HUNTING DEVICES:

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 firearm is defined as a firearm into which the projectile is incapable of being inserted 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 black powder substitute only in muzzleloading firearms that are specifically designed for their use.
3. Centerfire revolvers, centerfire single-shot handguns, and centerfire single-shot rifles as specified in 520 ILCS 5/2.25
4. On private land only, archery equipment as defined by 17 Ill. Adm. Code 670.30 may be used during Youth Deer Season while hunting with a valid Youth Deer Season Permit.

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: For shotguns and muzzleloading firearms, the minimum size of the 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 only legal ammunition for a centerfire handgun or rifle is a bottleneck centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger with a case length not exceeding one and two-fifths inches, or a straight-walled centerfire cartridge of .30 caliber or larger, both of which must be available as a factory load with the published ballistic tables of the manufacturer showing a capability of at least 500 foot pounds of energy at the muzzle. The barrel of a handgun shall be at least 4 inches. Full metal jacket bullets may not be used to harvest deer.

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.exploremoreil.com/wildlife/harvest>.

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. 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.

Public Land Sites Open to Youth Deer Hunt

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-Public Hunting Area
- Calhoun/Jersey – Mississippi River SFWA
- Cass – Jim Edgar Panther Creek SFWA
- Clinton – Carlyle Lake SFWA, Eldon Hazlet SP (North Allen Branch Unit only)
- Coles – Fox Ridge SP
- Crawford – Crawford County SFWA
- DeWitt – Clinton Lake SRA (only in the area between County Highway 14/Friends Creek Road and State Route 48 – both sides of lake)
- Effingham – Wildcat Hollow SHA
- Fayette – Carlyle Lake SFWA
- Franklin/Jackson – Campbell Pond SHA
- Hamilton – Hamilton County State Fish and Wildlife Area
- Hancock – Cedar Glen SNA
- Hardin – Cave-In-Rock State Park – Kaegi Tract
- Henderson – Mississippi River (Pool 18); Big River SF
- Iroquois – Iroquois County State Wildlife Area
- Jackson – Kinkaid Lake SFWA; Burning Star State Fish and Wildlife Area
- Jackson/Union – Giant City SP
- Jasper – Meeker SHA, Newton Lake SFWA, Prairie Ridge SNA
- 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, Wards Grove, Winston Tunnel
- Johnson – Cypress Pond SNA, Deer Pond SNA, Ferne Clyffe SP (Cedar/Draper Bluffs Hunting Area, Ferne Clyffe SP (Ferne Clyffe Hunting Area), 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 SNA

- 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)
- McDonough – Argyle Lake SP
- Moultrie – Lake Shelbyville Project Lands in Moultrie County including Shelbyville SFWA
- Montgomery – Coffeen Lake SFWA (Upland Management Area only)
- Peoria – Marshall SFWA
- Perry – Pyramid State Park (Captain, Denmark, East Conant, Galum and Park units)
- Pike – Mississippi River (Pool 24), Ray Norbut SFWA (including the Dutch Creek unit)
- Pope – Big Grand Pierre Glade SNA, Cretaceous Hills SNA, Dixon Springs SP, Dog Island
- Randolph – Turkey Bluffs SFWA
- Randolph/St. Clair/Monroe – Kaskaskia River SFWA – except south of Hwy 154 and north of Hwy 13
- 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, Union County SFWA-Firing Line Unit
- Union/Alexander – Devil’s Island SFWA

Please call **217-782-7305** or email us at DNR.Permits1@illinois.gov if you have any questions.