

**Conservation Congress  
Statewide Youth Turkey Hunt Referendum**

160307

**Problem:** Under the current rules, "one adult may not "accompany" more than two hunters. The definition of "accompany" is within sight or sound, as defined in the deer regulations regarding young hunters of 12 or 13 years of age. Turkey hunting requires a hunter to be very still, call well, know when to call, and when not to call. Additionally, a turkey hunter must understand their maximum ethical distance the shotgun their using is capable of delivering a mortal wound to the head and neck of a turkey. Knowledge of ethical distance, when to shoot, and when not to, can only be properly taught to a young hunter if the mentor(adult) is within touching distance to the hunter.

**Where as:** The ethical distance a particular shotgun can deliver a mortal wound to the head and neck of a turkey differs greatly with the firearm, choke being used, amount of shot being fired, and amount of powder behind the load of shot. A new turkey hunter usually doesn't understand shotgun "ballistics".

**Where as:** Since Wisconsin started its annual turkey season in 1983, multiple people have been shot when being mistaken for game, and when being in line of decoys or targeted turkeys. Safety instructions can't be told to the youth hunter if the adult isn't within touching distance.

**Where as:** Decisions when not to shoot, (i.e. when other turkeys are in close proximity of targeted turkey), can't be told to the young hunter if the adult isn't within touching distance.

**Where as:** Educating the youth hunter about turkey sign, habitat, set-up locations, calling techniques, strutting areas, feather identification, dusting areas, feeding areas, travel routes, etc., can best be done with a whisper within touching distance.

**Where as:** Educating the youth what a legal bird is, as a bird approaches can best be done within touching distance.

**Where as:** Coaching the youth the importance of when to be motionless when a turkey approaches, lessens the new hunter's frustration caused when a turkey is scared away, and improves the chances of calling a bird to within shooting distance, adding to the overall hunting experience.

**Therefore be it resolved:** That we the people of Douglas County, Wisconsin request that the youth turkey hunt regulations re-define the meaning of "accompany" to read, "an adult mentor shall be within touching distance of the youth hunter".

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Yes 16 No 1