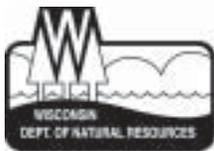


Learning to Hunt

Hosting a hunting-based outdoor skills event in your community



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Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources
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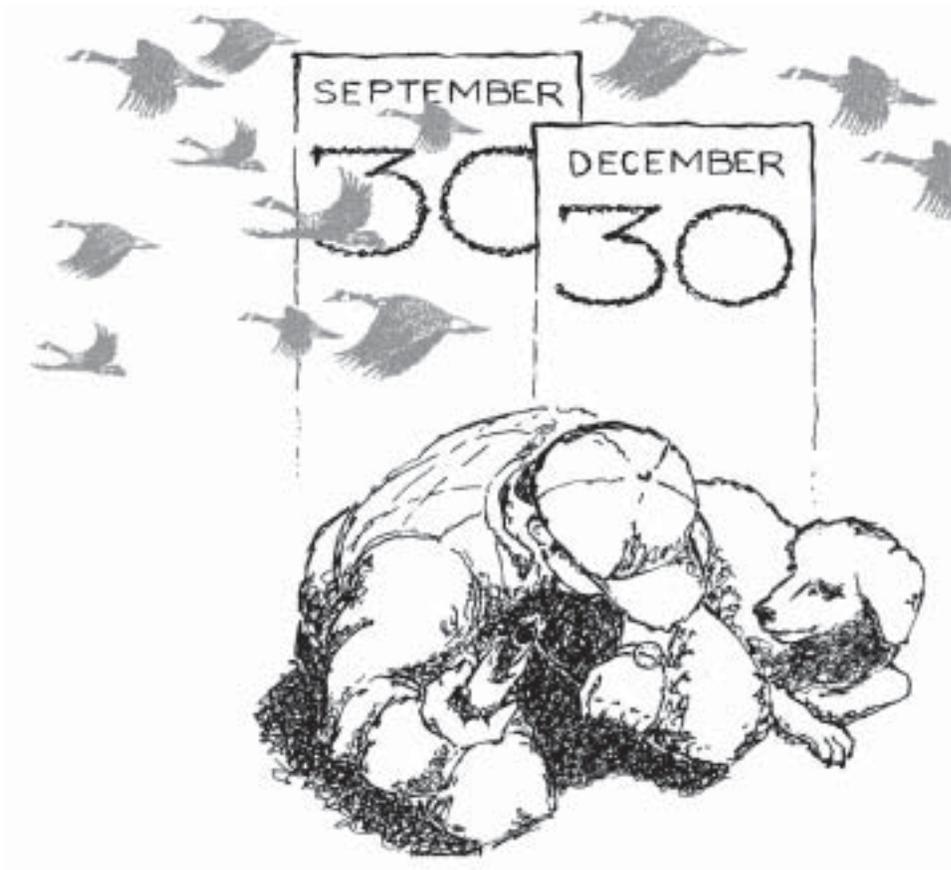
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Learning the Hunting Game

Rules and regulations

Participants learn about basic rules and regulations for hunting, application procedures, types of licenses and stamps needed, seasons and bag limits, and how to interpret hunting regulation pamphlets.



Station 3

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Objectives

Participants shall:

state what animals can be hunted, when, and why.

state what licenses need to be purchased, which species require special tags, permits or stamps, and what the fees are used for.

find information in the DNR rules pamphlets.

- 1 set of the previous year's application forms and tags, including Hunter's Choice Permit application and tags
- 1 Sandhill Outdoor Skills Center Calendar of Events

For the group:

- 1 set of plat books for the class
- 1 Deer Management Unit Map, and other hunting fact sheets
- 1 set of public hunting grounds maps
- 1-2 bags of wrapped chocolate "kisses" or some other form of wrapped candy.

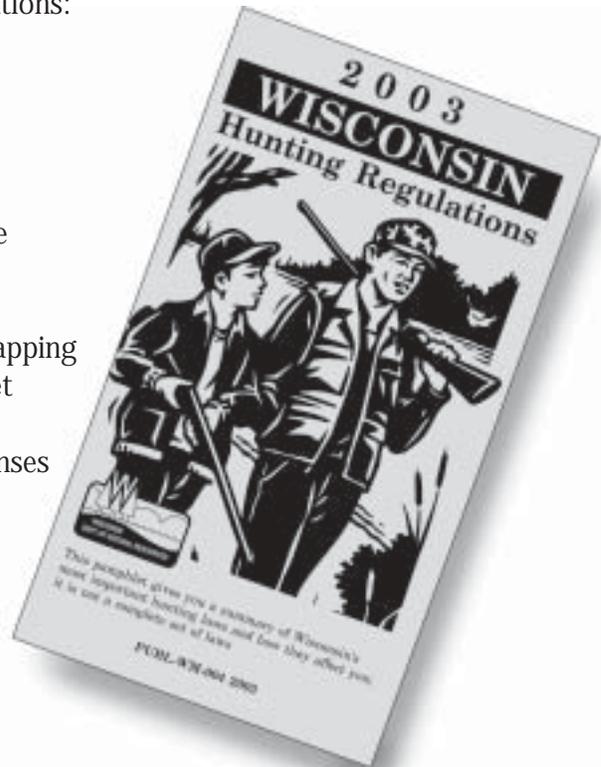
Equipment

For each participant:

- 1 set of hunting regulations:
 - General Hunting
 - Spring Turkey
 - Fall Turkey
 - Pheasant
 - Bear
 - Early Canada Goose
 - Waterfowl

- 1 Hunting and Trapping Season Fact Sheet

- 1 Hunting Licenses Fact Sheet



Station Setup

Place chairs in a circle so all participants will be facing you. Place a complete set of handouts on each chair. Make one copy of "Hunting License Fact Sheet" found later in this station. Fill in the blanks with the current year's license fees. Check with your local DNR office for current costs. After you've filled out a master copy, make enough copies so your participants will each have a copy. From the current year hunting regulation books and other handouts, create between 20 and 30 review questions that participants will attempt to answer at the end of this station.

Procedure

Explain to participants that this session is very important, since it deals with rules and regulations and application procedures for the various types of hunts. Tell them to approach this teaching station as if they were learning to play Monopoly or pinochle. Before they can play, they need to learn and understand the rules. Hunting may be looked upon as a very specialized type of game with lots of rules. Learning the rules can be challenging to beginning hunters because rules can change from year to year, and sometimes even during a hunting season.

Game Animals

Ask participants to recall the ice breaker activity in Station 1. Consider the following questions:

How does an animal become classified as a hunted species or a game species?

Possible Answers:

Tradition: Animals that were large and meaty were sought to provide food for families.

Tradition: Extremely large animals (bison) or very large and powerful animals (cougars) were sought, not for food, but for the thrill associated with the potential danger of the animal and for trophies that make a statement about the skill or bravery of the hunter.

Tradition: Some animals, such as skunks, blackbirds, and coyotes, are considered pests or varmints and they are hunted not for meat or trophies, but simply to eliminate them and the problems they cause.

Sometimes animals that were hunted in the past, are no longer allowed to be hunted because their population has declined so significantly (timber wolves, prairie chickens, canvasbacks.)

Activity

Skunks are sometimes hunted because many people consider them to be pests. But they are not traditionally considered game animals.



Some animals that are hunted extensively in some states are not allowed to be hunted in other states. For example, the prairie chicken has a high enough population in some upper Midwest states, that it can be hunted there. But in other states, such as Wisconsin, the prairie chicken population is so small it is considered threatened. Mourning doves were once considered non-game in Wisconsin, but are now huntable as they are in a number of other states. Sandhill cranes are hunted in some states, but not in others.

Instruct participants to locate their Wisconsin Hunting and Trapping Season Fact Sheet. Briefly review the fact sheet to determine what animals are hunted in Wisconsin.

What are Hunting Seasons?

Still looking at the Season Fact Sheet, point out the dates associated with each animal. The span of dates listed next to each animal is referred to as the animal's "season" --the time during which hunting or trapping is allowed.

Ask the participants the following questions. Have them refer to the Seasons Fact Sheet for answers.

Would I be considered hunting out of season, if I hunt deer with a gun on September 30?

Usually, yes. The only exception is if you are hunting on property owned by a landowner who qualified for assistance under the Animal Damage Program, and you have the appropriate agricultural damage permits that the state issued to that landowner, usually a farmer. You would still be legal, though not technically hunting within the normal gun deer season.

Would I be hunting out of season if I have the appropriate licenses and permits for spring turkey hunting, but I shoot a tom turkey at 2:30 in the afternoon on Friday, April 30?

Yes. Seasons are not only date dependent, they're also time-of-day dependent. For turkeys, the spring season opens at dawn and closes at 12 noon. For pheasant and waterfowl, the season opens at 12 noon on the first day, and then opens at dawn for each succeeding day thereafter.

Why are hunting and trapping seasons usually limited to fall or early winter?

Usually it's after the breeding season (ducks and geese, for example).

Because the cooler weather decreases the chance of meat spoilage.

It lessens the chance of encountering diseased animals, such as rabbits infected with tularemia.

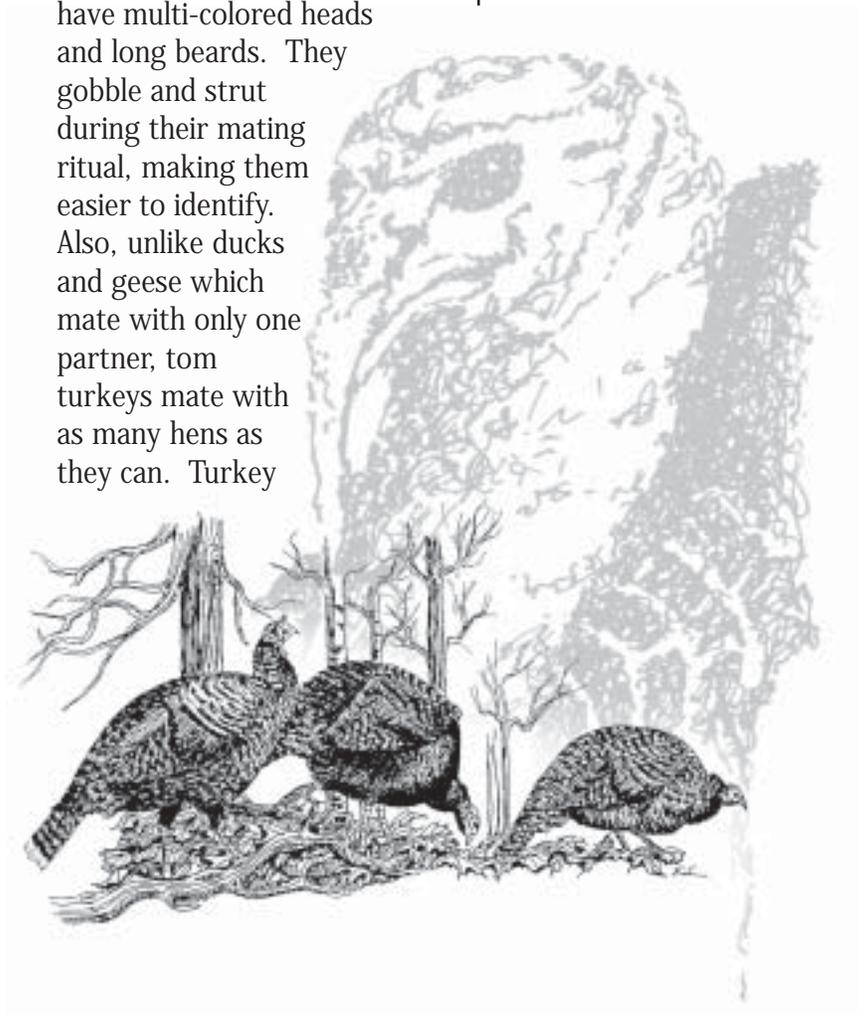
Sometimes fall is the only time when the post-breeding season animals are even in the state (ducks and geese, for example).

For trapping seasons, the fall and winter are the seasons when the pelts are "prime," with the thickest, most luxuriant fur.

One exception to hunting in fall is the spring turkey hunt. In 1976, Wisconsin obtained wild turkeys from Missouri, which has a very healthy population of these large birds. Wisconsin DNR annually released these wild turkeys into the southwestern part of the state until 1991. When DNR first allowed turkey hunting, the season was a spring-only season. Later, after the population became firmly established, a fall season was allowed.

Why did we allow only spring hunting? Hint: Think about how turkeys behave and what they look like that time of year.

When populations were relatively low, the state did not want to run the risk of decreasing the population by eliminating hens. Since it can be difficult to tell a female turkey from a male turkey, it made sense to have a spring season, because this is when male, or tom, turkeys are in breeding plumage. They have multi-colored heads and long beards. They gobble and strut during their mating ritual, making them easier to identify. Also, unlike ducks and geese which mate with only one partner, tom turkeys mate with as many hens as they can. Turkey



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season closes at noon and two days out of every seven during the spring season to give some relief time to the birds.

Bag Limits

Discuss the concept of bag limits. Hand out a copy of the General Hunting Regulations pamphlet. Ask participants to turn to the page discussing bag limits. Bag limits are the number of animals of a particular species that a hunter may legally harvest in one day (daily bag limit) or in one season (seasonal bag limits).

Licenses & Stamps

Tell participants that this section is one of the most challenging parts of learning the "Hunting Game." Ask them to pay close attention, and encourage them to stop you if they have questions.

Learning the rules and regulations can be confusing because there are so many of them and because they can change from year to year. This teaching station focuses on what is required to be considered a legal hunter in Wisconsin. Ask participants to look at their copy of Hunting License Fact Sheet (hold up an example of one.)

The first thing every hunter needs is a hunting license. Hunters born after January 1, 1973, must also successfully complete a Hunter Education Course.

The second thing a hunter must consider is what kind of hunting license is needed. The handout illustrates the types of hunting licenses available. Which license a hunter needs depends on the type of hunting he or she will be doing. For example:

For hunters who want to hunt just grouse or rabbits, all that's needed is a small game license.

If they want to only hunt deer with a gun, then they'll need a gun deer hunting license.

Hunters who want to hunt both pheasants and ducks need not only a small game game license, but also a pheasant stamp or state and federal waterfowl stamps.

If they plan on hunting small game and deer and want to fish inland as well, then a Sports License is a good selection.

Hunters can also purchase a Patrons license which includes all hunting and fishing privileges plus all the state stamps, applications, fees and tags needed.

Some game animals require a special hunting stamp as well as a license:



Wisconsin waterfowl hunters must purchase both state waterfowl stamps and the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp.

For pheasant hunting, hunters must buy a pheasant stamp.

For ducks and/or geese, hunters need a state waterfowl stamp **and** a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (generically called duck stamps). The Federal stamps can be purchased at any Post Office.

For wild turkey hunting, hunters must purchase a wild turkey stamp.

All stamps must be affixed to hunting license and signed in ink across the face.

Hunting Permits

To hunt certain animals, special permits are required. These permits may be needed for the entire state, or just for certain parts of the state. Only a limited number of permits are issued, so applying doesn't automatically mean a permit will be awarded to the applicant. Here's how to apply for the different types of permits:

Wild Turkey: Hunters must fill out two separate permit applications, one for the spring hunt and another for the fall hunt. When applying for a permit, hunters can specify time period preferences as well as hunting management zone preferences. They may not always get their first choices of time period or

management zone. Permits are awarded by random drawings. Landowners get first preference for hunting.

Canada Geese: Most of the state of Wisconsin lies in a region called the Exterior Zone. Anyone who wants to hunt geese in this zone can purchase a hunting permit that will allow them to do so.

A number of sub-zones exist in the Exterior Zone. Seasons can change in each sub-zone from year to year. Two other zones in the state are renowned for their high concentrations of geese. These



Hunting wild turkeys in Wisconsin requires hunters to apply for Spring and Fall hunting season permits.

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are called the Horicon Zone and the Collins Zone. For these special zones, hunters must apply to hunt in these areas for a given period of time.

Depending on how the general population of Canada geese fared on their breeding grounds in northern Canada, successful hunters may be issued from one to a number of "tags." Each tag entitles the hunter to one goose. Populations of geese can

fluctuate dramatically. One year, Horicon Zone hunters may have 6 tags issued to them and then the next year, following a poor reproductive season, they may be issued only 2 tags.

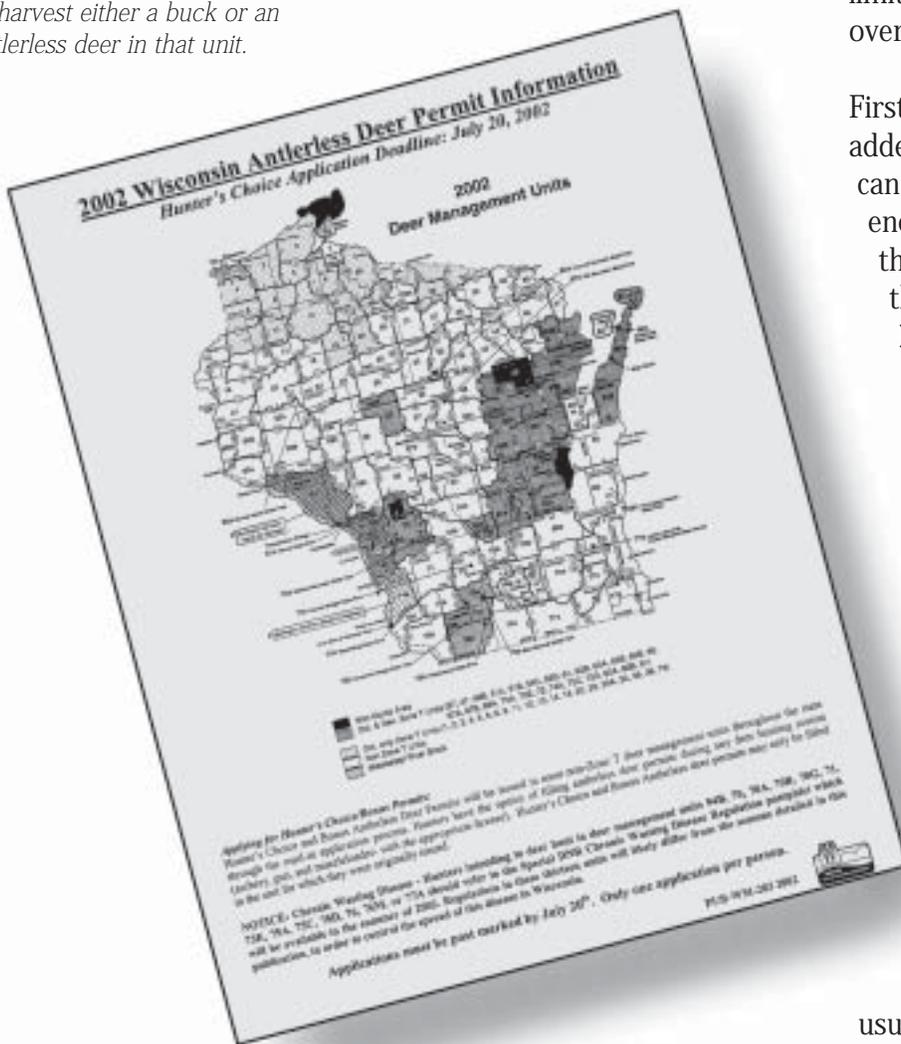
White-tailed Deer: The white-tailed deer is Wisconsin's number one game animal. Over 650,000 deer hunters take to the woods each fall. Hunters with a deer, sports or patrons license can hunt anywhere in the state, but are limited to male deer with antlers over three-inches long.

First-time hunters may want the added security of knowing they can shoot at any deer they encounter, without concern for the length of its antlers. To do this, they must apply for a **Hunter's Choice** permit, and learn about Deer Management Units.

Now show participants the Deer Management Units map and hand out Hunter's Choice Applications. Review these with the group.

The State of Wisconsin is divided into over 100 parcels of land, called Deer Management Units. Each unit is usually bounded by easily recognized landscape features such

Hunters in many of Wisconsin's Deer Management Units have the option to apply for a Hunter's Choice permit which allows them to harvest either a buck or an antlerless deer in that unit.



as roads or rivers. These units are based on habitat types that are fairly distinct and uniform.

In years past, when deer were not as plentiful, hunters could legally shoot only male deer, called bucks. As the herd grew, wildlife biologists realized that if they were going to try to keep the herd in check, female deer--or does--must be harvested from the herd also. But how many? Biologists want to maintain the herd at a level that's suitable for both the environment and for people. Too many deer ruin the habitat and cause problems for people, such as crop damage, vehicle collisions, and urban tree and shrub damage.

So, today, wildlife managers figure out how many antlerless deer can safely be harvested to help keep the deer herd in check. They do a lot of mathematical calculations and come up with a **quota**. Deer quotas refer to the number of antlerless deer that can be harvested in a given Deer Management Unit.

So, hunters who want the freedom to shoot whatever deer happens by during the gun deer season must apply for a **Hunter's Choice** permit. Armed with their gun deer license and a Hunter's Choice permit, hunters may be able to shoot either a buck or an antlerless deer. Sometimes hunters refer to the Hunter's Choice permit as a "doe tag," but the permit can be

used to harvest buck fawns or bucks with antlers shorter than three inches.

Even with DNR's ability to determine how many deer must be harvested to keep the herd at a tolerable level, hunters have not been able to shoot all the deer necessary. So, in recent years, DNR has issued **Bonus Antlerless Permits**. With these permits, hunters can harvest another antlerless deer. The number of bonus permits available in a given Deer Management Unit depends upon how many unfilled Hunter's Choice Permits remain for a given unit.

Game Registration

White-tailed Deer:

Unlike many other states, Wisconsin requires all deer hunters to register each deer they shoot. Many deer registration stations exist across the state. Some are at DNR offices, but most are at local gas stations, taverns, convenience stores or sporting goods stores.

Wisconsin deer hunters must register all animals they kill during the gun, bow, muzzleloader and special hunts.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Deer Harvest Information

Information provided may be used to determine identity of registrant, participation in natural resource surveys and enforcement purposes.

HUNTER COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Season: BOW GUN MUZZLELOADER

Date of Kill: (Month, Day, Year) _____

Deer Management Unit of Kill: _____

County of Kill: _____

Name: _____

DNR Customer ID #: _____
(This number appears on your license)

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

REGISTRATION STATION COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Antlered Buck (♂ or ♂) 1

Antlerless Deer (doe or fawn) 2 **ALSO CHECK BOX BELOW.**

ANTLERLESS DEER AUTHORITY

1. Hunter's Choice 5. Class A Disabled Permit Holder

2. Regular Gun Deer License-Revs Book 6. First Time Hunter Education Graduate

3. Bow or Free Zone T 7. Registered Member of Annual Deers-on-Learn

4. Regular Archery License

Station Number: _____

Ch. 29, Wis. Stats.
Form DNR-261 (R 2/00)

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As soon as the hunter is certain that their deer is dead, they must take their backtag, fill it out with info such as date and time of kill, and attach it to the base of the antler or through the ear of an antlerless deer. Demonstrate how to “tag a deer” with an old, unused tag obtained from a DNR office.

The deer can then be transported in the hunter’s vehicle so that it can be inspected by a warden and so the hunter cannot tamper with it.

Wild Turkey: All wild turkeys must also be registered after they are harvested. A list of registration stations is provided to all hunters who successfully obtained a permit in a drawing.

Where to Hunt?

Hand out copies of Wisconsin DNR’s Public Wildlife Recreation Land booklet (PUB-WM-001) and some samples of plat books.

Armed with the needed licenses, permits and stamps, the prospective hunter needs to determine where to hunt. Landowners usually hunt their own land. Other hunters know friends or family members who own land.

Otherwise, the hunter must select a parcel of state-owned land for hunting purposes. Wisconsin has over 650 State Wildlife Areas for hunting, trapping, fishing and wildlife viewing. The state also includes many state forests, county forests and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest system.

All a hunter needs to do is investigate what types of habitats these properties have, and get a copy of a local plat book or check out the DNR website: www-dnr.state.wi where there is a complete listing of all wildlife management areas.

Check out the wildlife management pages of the DNR website for places to hunt: www.dnr.state.wi.us/.





Thanks for Giving Me Permission to Hunt!

I appreciate your kindness and will
respect the privilege you've granted me.

My Name:

My Address:

My Telephone Number:

My Vehicle License Plate:

Color/Make of Vehicle:

My Hunting Partners:



Make copies of this card on heavy card stock. Ask participants to cut out each card and carry the completed card with them to give to landowners when hunting private lands.

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Review

Before assessing your participant's comprehension of the concepts and terms you discussed in the sections above, briefly review with your group each hunting pamphlet and the general contents of each. Then, to determine how well your participants understand the "Hunting Game," ask a series of review questions whose answers can be found in the various hunting regulations booklets or in other handouts you have given participants. They can use these handouts to help answer your questions.

Ask a question and then select a person who has raised his or her hand. If that person answers the question correctly, find out where the answer was so that everyone in the group can turn to that page and read the answer.

As a reward, toss that person a wrapped candy. Continue the questioning. With the small incentive of candy, participants should become very interested in being selected for answering the next question. Be sure to select a variety of participants for



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answering, and allow enough time for the slower participants to raise their hand. Because the rules and regulations change from year to year, you will need to change the answers to your questions each year. The following is a sample selection of questions that you may ask your participants. The answers to this set of questions may be found in the current year's Wisconsin Hunting Regulations pamphlet. Create additional questions from the other regulations booklets and handouts to test for participant comprehension of those materials as well.

1. What huntable species require the purchase of a hunting stamp?
2. In what Deer Management Unit would you be hunting if you hunted 10 miles west of Stevens Point?
3. Can you use dogs to hunt deer?
4. Can coyotes be hunted year-round throughout the state?
5. What is the daily bag limit for bobwhite quail?
6. When does squirrel hunting begin and end?
7. What are the gun hunting hours for deer in Taylor County on November 29?

8. What is the phone number you can call for hunting information if you live in the LaCrosse area?
9. Is it illegal to use a flashlight to find your way to your deer stand during the gun deer season?
10. If you are 12 years old and have successfully completed Hunter Education, can you hunt alone?
11. What time can you start hunting deer with a gun on November 26, if you are hunting in Trempealeau County?
12. When does pheasant season close?
13. You are interested in hunting bear. You know that bear are attracted to honey and bacon grease. You set out a pan of bacon strips smothered in honey for the bear. Are you following a legal practice?
14. During the gun deer season, ALL hunters, including waterfowl hunters, must wear blaze orange clothing for safety reasons. True or False?


End of Teaching Station



Hunting License Fact Sheet

License Type

Cost

Conservation Patron _____

Sport License _____

Resident Small Game License _____

Resident Deer Hunting License _____

Resident Archery License _____

Resident Bear Hunting License (pursuit) _____

State Waterfowl Stamp _____

Pheasant Stamp _____

Turkey Stamp _____

Spring Turkey License _____

Fall Turkey License _____

Application Fees

 Spring Turkey _____

 Fall Turkey _____

 Goose _____

 Hunter's Choice _____

 Bonus Deer _____

