

How will the wardens know if a person is supposed to be a mentored hunter? Licenses for 10 or 11 year olds or people who have not yet completed hunter education will indicate that the hunter is a “Mentored Only” hunter. This identifies the license holder as someone who must be within arm’s reach of their mentor and that there should only be one firearm or bow possessed jointly between them.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- A person who is at least 10 years old by the first day of the bear hunting season for which they are applying may now apply for a Class A bear hunting license or a bear hunting preference point.
- A person who is age 9 or older may apply for a spring or fall turkey hunting permit, sharp-tailed grouse and Horicon goose permit. There is no minimum age to apply for a bobcat permit, or wolf license, but a person must be at least 10 before they may actually obtain a license that allows hunting for bobcat or wolf.
- Any person may apply to the DNR to transfer one or more of their hunting permits or licenses to a youth age 10-17 who is eligible to hunt, or transfer a wolf license to a person of any age. The transfer application must be received at least 15 days before that season begins.
- It is legal for a youth of any age to possess a firearm (rifles, shotguns, or handguns) for the purpose of target practice, which also includes shooting trap, skeet or sporting clays, if accompanied by a parent or guardian, or a person age 18 or older designated by the parent or guardian. Note: the arm’s reach one firearm rule does not apply to target practicing.
- Handguns may not be possessed or used for hunting by anyone under age 18.

REDUCED LICENSE FEES
FOR 10 OR 11 YEAR OLD HUNTERS

Residents & Nonresidents

Small game	\$7.00
Gun deer	\$7.00
Class A bear	\$7.00
Archery	\$7.00
Wild turkey	\$7.00
After drawing turkey permits	\$5.00
Wild turkey stamp	\$4.50
Pheasant stamp	\$4.50
Bonus antlerless deer tags (for Regular DMUs)	\$5.00
Herd control antlerless deer carcass tags	\$2.00
Class B bear: not required if under age 16	
Waterfowl stamp: State and Federal stamps are not required if under age 16	

Nonresidents

Furbearer hunting	\$7.00
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Effective: September 1, 2009

To find out more visit DNR’s website at dnr.wi.gov and search “mentored hunting”

Contact us:

Learn to Hunt Coordinator

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Toll free 1-888-WDNR INFO (936-7463)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



Wisconsin’s Mentored Hunting Program



Share the Tradition
Create New Memories
Make a Difference
Become a Mentor



Through the **Mentored Hunting Program**, anyone age 10 or older who was born on or after 1-1-73 may obtain a hunting license and hunt without the need to first take hunter education. Mentored hunters and mentors must comply with all of the following requirements:

RULES THAT APPLY TO THE HUNTER:

- Must be at least 10 years old.
- Must have the appropriate valid hunting license, permits and tags.
- May only hunt while within arm's reach of a "mentor" - regardless of the hunter's age or the mentor's age.
- Must follow all other hunting laws, seasons and bag limits.
- 10 & 11 year olds may only hunt under these mentorship rules, even if they already completed hunter education.

RULES THAT APPLY TO THE MENTOR:

- Must be at least 18 years old.
- If born on or after 1-1-73, must be a hunter education course graduate, or have completed basic training with the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Must be the hunter's parent or guardian, or have the permission of the hunter's parent or guardian before acting as a mentor for a person under age 18.
- Must have a current year's hunting license. (Type of hunting license does not matter for the mentor, unless they will also be attempting to harvest game, in which case they must have the appropriate valid hunting license, permits and tags for species they are hunting.)
- Only allowed to serve as a mentor for **ONE** hunter at a time if the hunter is either of the following:
 - age 10 or 11, **or**
 - was born on or after 1-1-73 and has not yet taken and passed a hunter education course.

RULES THAT APPLY TO BOTH THE HUNTER AND THE MENTOR:

- Only **ONE** firearm, bow or crossbow can be possessed jointly between the hunter and the mentor. A legally-carried concealed handgun counts as the "one firearm".

Frequently Asked Questions

Can the mentor also hunt? If the mentor has the appropriate hunting license, permits and tags for the species being hunted and the season is open for them to hunt that species, then yes, the mentor can also hunt. The mentor and hunter would have to share the **ONE** firearm, bow, or crossbow that may be possessed jointly between them. A mentor **may not** hunt during the youth waterfowl, youth gun deer or youth turkey hunts for ducks, turkeys or deer under a gun deer license.

Are both the hunter and mentor allowed to harvest their own daily bag limit? Each person who has a valid hunting license (and any required permits, tags or stamps) is allowed to shoot and possess their own daily bag limit during an open season in which they are allowed to participate. No person may kill game for another person's bag limit, except as allowed under the group gun deer hunting rules.

Can adults without hunter education certification also participate as a mentored hunter? Adults may also participate as a mentored hunter. Adults **must** abide by the same hunting requirements of the Mentored Hunting Program. This means regardless of the hunter's age, the adult must remain within arm's reach of their mentor and only one firearm, bow or crossbow is allowed jointly.

Is a person who is prohibited from carrying a firearm, such as a felon, allowed to be a mentor? A felon cannot be a mentor for a firearm hunt, however, they could be a mentor for an archery hunt. A firearm is considered "in possession" even if it is at an arm's reach away.

How many times can a person hunt as a mentored hunter? There is no limit on the number of times or years an adult or youth may participate as a mentored hunter.

What is the difference between the need to "**accompany**" a youth who has taken hunter education and is only age 12 or 13, or who is age 12-15 during a special youth waterfowl, gun deer or spring turkey hunt, and the "**mentoring**" of a youth or adult under the new hunting mentorship program?

To "**Accompany**" means the adult is within both visual and voice contact of the youth. The adult does not have to be a licensed hunter or a hunter education graduate to accompany a youth age 12 or older with hunter education. If the adult is hunting with a youth they are accompanying and a season is open for them both to hunt, they may possess their own firearm, bow or crossbow. An adult can only accompany 2 youth during the youth waterfowl, gun deer or spring turkey hunts.

To serve as a "**Mentor**" the adult must be within arm's reach of the one youth or adult that they are mentoring, and they may only have one firearm, bow or crossbow jointly between them. The mentor must also have a hunting license and be a hunter education course graduate or have completed basic training with the U.S. Armed Forces if born on or after 1-1-73.

Can an adult accompany one or more 12 or 13 year old hunters who have already taken hunter education at the same time they are serving as a mentor for a hunter who has not yet taken hunter education? An adult is allowed to serve as a "**mentor**" for only one hunter at a time. In addition, the mentor can (at the same time) "**accompany**" other hunters who are at least 12 and have graduated from Hunter Education. However, during the youth hunts, an adult may only "**accompany**" one hunter age 12-15 who has already completed hunter education while they are serving as a "**mentor**" for any youth who is required to hunt with a mentor.

Is "Group Hunting" allowed? Only for hunting deer with firearms. The normal group gun deer hunting rules apply. The hunter and mentor can share the one firearm, but both must have a valid gun deer hunting license.

REMEMBER TO LOOK FOR YOUR HUNTER EDUCATION CLASS WELL AHEAD OF THE SEASON. MOST CLASSES ARE HELD PRIOR TO MID-OCTOBER.