

Licenses & More

THE PENNSYLVANIA AUTOMATED LICENSE SYSTEM (PALS)

allows hunters and trappers to purchase licenses online, but provides a number of other services, as well.

FIRST ...



If you have already purchased a hunting or fishing license through PALS, you were assigned a Customer Identification Number (CID) that is printed on your license. Use this number to access the following information on our website.

THEN ...



Select the option that will provide the information you're looking for. More details at right.

A

Click the **Purchase** option and use your CID to make purchase, update your info, or check on applications.

- Purchase a License, Permit, Application or Reprint an Add-on: Purchase your license online and it will be mailed to you within seven to 10 business days. All sales are final. You can print your archery, muzzleloader, and migratory game bird add-on licenses immediately and they can be reprinted at no extra cost (online purchases only; must be used in conjunction with a valid hunting license). Purchase your Federal Duck Stamp online and it will be mailed to you within 45 business days. You can print a temporary electronic duck stamp (eDuck) immediately. The eDuck stamp can be reprinted at no extra cost up to 45 days from purchase (online purchases only).
- Update Address and Personal Information: Update your personal information at any time. Make sure your address is current and correct. You do not need to make a purchase to update your address. (Note: Name, date of birth, and driver's license number cannot be updated online. Call the License Division at 717-787-2084 to change this information.)
- Check on Antlerless Deer or Elk status: You can view successful antlerless applications because PALS updates this page as soon as your application is processed and your license is issued. You also can view your current elk preference points and see if you've been awarded an elk license in the lottery.

B

Click the **Harvest Reporting** option, and use your CID to manage your harvest reports:

- Report your Harvest: You can report these tags online: antlered/flintlock, antlerless deer (including DMAP permits), fall turkey, spring turkey, bobcat, and fisher. If you have multiple antlerless deer or spring turkey licenses, make sure to use the correct tag.
- View Harvest Record: You can view your harvest reports for the current year. PALS will display harvest reports made online or via the harvest phone hotline.

C

Click the **View Antlerless Deer License Availability** option to see up-to-the-minute sales.

- Check to see how many licenses are left in each WMU before mailing your application.

Automated Revocations

Another feature of the electronic license sales system is that persons who have had their hunting and furtaking license privileges revoked are automatically prohibited from buying a license.

License revocation can occur for the following reasons: failure to respond to a citation issued for a violation of the Game and Wildlife Code; failure to pay fines assessed by a court within 180 days of adjudication of the charges; revocation ordered by the

court for Game and Wildlife Code violations; failure to pay child support or for other lawful purposes; revocation ordered by the Game Commission for certain Game and Wildlife Code violations; revocation mandated by the Game and Wildlife Code; and failure to complete a remedial HTE course, if mandated.

Anyone who may be affected by one or more of these situations may contact the Game Commission's Bureau of Wildlife Protection at 717-787-4024 to verify the status of his or her hunting privileges.

License Information

License Required

A current hunting license is required and must be in possession to hunt, take or kill any wildlife in Pennsylvania not classified as a furbearer. A current furtaker license is required to hunt, trap, take or kill any furbearer (coyotes are the exception). A license is valid July 1 to the following June 30. Licenses are not required to be displayed on an outer garment.

Proof of Residency

Proof of Pennsylvania residency must be shown to obtain a resident hunting or furtaker license. Persons must be domiciled in Pennsylvania at least 30 consecutive days prior to application. Valid Pennsylvania driver's license, certain Pennsylvania and local tax receipts, and other positive means indicating residency may be used.

Validity of Licenses

Only one hunting or furtaker license shall be valid during any license year. Any replacement license, or purchase of a second or subsequent license shall immediately invalidate any license of the same kind that had been previously issued.

Uncollectible Checks

If a check issued in payment of any fee or fine is returned uncollectible, the person who makes, issues or presents it will be charged a \$25 fee. This fee is in addition to any costs of prosecution or penalties assessed as a result of the collectible check. Any license, permit or privilege granted by an uncollectible check shall be invalid until all applicable fees are paid.

License Transfers

Hunting and furtaker licenses are nontransferable and nonrefundable. It is unlawful to possess another's hunting license or big game tags.

Training Certificate — Hunting

Persons who have not held a hunting license issued in Pennsylvania or another state or nation, or do not possess a training certificate, are required to attain certification in an accredited hunter-trapper education program before applying for a hunting license. These provisions do not apply to a person presenting 1) evidence of service in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Coast Guard and discharge or separation under honorable conditions within six months of application, or 2) evidence that the person is currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or U.S. Coast Guard.

Training Certificate — Trapping

Persons applying for a furtaker license must present to the issuing agent one of the following: 1) evidence that the applicant has held a trapping or furtaker license issued in Pennsylvania or another state or nation; 2) a certificate of training; 3) an affidavit that applicant completed a voluntary trapping course sanctioned by the Game Commission, or 4) the applicant has previously hunted or trapped furbearers within the last five years. These provisions do not apply to persons under 12 who trap furbearers under direct supervision of a licensed adult furtaker at least 18 years old.

Replacement Training Certificate

Information about obtaining a replacement Hunter Education Training Certificate, can be found online at www.pgc.pa.gov or www.ilstmcard.com.

Unlicensed Persons

An unlicensed person may accompany a properly licensed hunter or trapper provided that the unlicensed person acts as only an observer and does not, in any manner, participate in hunting or trapping. Any unlicensed person accompanying a licensed hunter must wear the required amount of fluorescent orange. An unlicensed person who has never held a hunting license in Pennsylvania or any other state may accompany a properly licensed hunter or trapper and participate in these activities providing the following requirements are met: The unlicensed person remains in sight and close to a hunter at least 18 years of age; the unlicensed person does not possess a firearm, bow, or other hunting device; the unlicensed person complies with fluorescent orange requirements; and the unlicensed person who accompanies any hunting party shall be counted as a member of the hunting party for maximum allowed members. The ratio of licensed hunters to non-licensed persons must not exceed 1:1.

Identification Required When Hunting

While afield, in addition to his or her hunting or furtaker license, hunters or furtakers are required to have cards or papers that must be shown to an officer or landowner upon request to confirm identification and residency.

Purchasing Licenses Online

Individuals may apply for most licenses online, with the exceptions of antlerless deer licenses and military licenses. Visit online at www.pgc.pa.gov and click on "Buy a License." Licenses are not valid until they are received and signed by the license holder. Each general license is mailed with a copy of the current digest and two antlerless deer application envelopes (additional envelopes are available at any issuing agent). Add-on privileges purchased online, such as archery, muzzleloader and migratory game bird licenses, can be printed by the applicant. These add-on privileges (images if printed by applicant) are not valid unless the applicant has his or her general license in hand.

Junior Licenses and Hunters

Persons under 17 years of age must have their parent or legal guardian's approval to purchase a general hunting, combination or furtaker license. Junior hunters who wish to hunt in the archery and/or muzzleloader seasons, must purchase a combination license. These add-on licenses may not be added to a general junior hunting license. Eleven-year-olds who have successfully completed a required Hunter-Trapper Education course may apply for a Junior License if they will be 12 years old by June 30 of the license year. They may not lawfully hunt with the license prior to their 12th birthday. Persons 12 and 13 must be accompanied by an adult member of the family (at least 18), or by an adult serving in place of a parent. Persons 14 and 15 must be accompanied by any adult 18 or older. Sixteen-year-olds may hunt alone. Persons who turn 17 after purchasing a junior license can still hunt that year with the Junior License. It is unlawful while accompanying junior hunters under 16 to be out of sight of or unable to physically or verbally control the junior hunter or fail to comply with the fluorescent orange requirements. Verbal instructions given through the use of an electronic or other sound amplification device does not meet this requirement.

License Information

Senior Lifetime License Holders

Lifetime licenses must be renewed each year. If you have not purchased or renewed your Senior Lifetime License through PALS, you will need to provide your SSN when applying. This is a one-time only requirement, and will not be needed again unless you do not have or cannot remember your CID. Senior Lifetime License ID cards are no longer issued or required because PALS will recognize your record through your SSN or CID. You still need to provide proof of residency when renewing your license, usually through a valid Pennsylvania driver's license.

Resident Landowner Hunting License

An eligible landowner who owns 80 or more contiguous acres open to public hunting in a Cooperative Hunter Access Program, or a designated immediate family member living in the same household, is entitled to a Landowner hunting license. Applicants must have their PGC Cooperative Hunter Access Program agreement number when applying.

Landowner Antlerless Deer License

An eligible landowner who owns 50 or more contiguous acres within a county is entitled to one antlerless deer license for the WMU where the land is located at the prescribed fee (\$6.90 for residents, \$26.90 for nonresidents). If the qualifying acreage is located within a county with two or more WMUs, the applicant selects the WMU he or she desires. A landowner must keep his or her property open to public hunting and trapping year-round to qualify. These licenses are allocated in advance of the regular licenses. The Landowner Antlerless Deer License Application/Affidavit is available from county treasurers, PGC offices, and online. Applicants must apply directly to the county treasurer of the county where the acreage is located. Landowners must apply for these licenses prior to the start of the regular application period, which begins on the second Monday in July.

Resident Military Personnel License

To qualify for a general hunting license for \$2.90 applicants must meet all of the following requirements: 1) be a resident of Pennsylvania; 2) be on active and full-time duty in the U.S. Armed Forces or the U.S. Coast Guard; 3) be currently assigned to a facility outside Pennsylvania; and 4) be on temporary leave in Pennsylvania.

Resident National Guard/Reserves

Reduced fee \$2.90 general hunting licenses are available to residents serving in the Pennsylvania National Guard and the Reserves who, within the previous 24 months, were deployed overseas for a period of 60 consecutive days or more, or were released early from such service because of an injury or disease incurred in the line of duty. Only one reduced-fee license may be issued for each qualifying deployment.

Resident Prisoners of War

Reduced fee \$2.90 general hunting licenses also are available to residents who are former Prisoners of War imprisoned by enemy forces while in the service of the armed forces of the U.S. as certified by the appropriate branch of the armed forces of the U.S.

Required Armed Services Personnel Documentation

Residents applying for any of the Armed Services licenses must provide official documentation, from the branch in which they

serve, to prove eligibility in the form of orders, leave documents, military ID, and in the case of POWs, a DD214. All of these licenses, except for the POWs (county treasurers and PGC offices sell POWs), are available from any issuing agent. If the applicant cannot apply in person, he or she may submit to the Game Commission office or county treasurer a written request, including full name, legal address, telephone number, date of birth, height, eye color and documentation verifying Pennsylvania residency and military orders and, for the POW license, a copy of DD214 stating prisoner of war status. Applicant must include a self-addressed, stamped, return envelope with the request.

Disabled War Veterans

Resident disabled war veterans with service-incurred 100 percent disability, or the loss of use of one or more limbs, may qualify for free hunting and furtaker licenses. Resident disabled war veterans with a service-incurred disability rating between 60 percent and 99 percent may qualify for a reduced fee \$2.90 hunting and furtaker license. Applicants must provide documentation from the Veterans Administration. Call your county treasurer.

Migratory Game Bird Licenses

All persons are required to have a Migratory Game Bird License to hunt waterfowl and migratory birds including doves, woodcock, brant, coots, gallinules, rails and snipe. The license must be signed in ink and carried by the hunter.

Federal Duck Stamp

All persons 16 and older are required to have a federal duck stamp to hunt waterfowl. It must be signed in ink across the face and carried by the hunter. It is not necessary to display the stamp. These stamps can be purchased at any issuing agent, at the post office, or by visiting www.pgc.pa.gov and clicking "Buy a License."

Bear Licenses

Hunters may purchase this license online or over-the-counter at any issuing agent from the start of the license sales (approximately mid-June) through the end of bear season.

Special Second Spring Gobbler License

Hunters may purchase this license online or over-the-counter at any issuing agent from the start of the license sales (approximately mid-June) until the day before (April 28) the spring gobbler season.

Replacement Licenses

If a hunting or furtaker license has been lost or destroyed, a replacement license may be purchased for \$6.90, per privilege, over-the-counter at any issuing agent or online at www.pgc.pa.gov by clicking on "Buy a License." A lost or destroyed antlerless license can only be replaced through a county treasurer. County treasurers can issue replacement antlerless deer licenses for any WMU.

Elk License Application

Hunters may apply to enter the drawing for an Elk license one time per license year, either online or at an issuing agent. The Elk application can be purchased from the start of the license sales (approximately mid-June) until the application deadline. Refer to the "Elk Section" in this Digest for detailed information.

License Availability

THE FOLLOWING LICENSES, PERMITS AND SPECIAL-DRAW APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ALL ISSUING AGENTS INCLUDING COUNTY TREASURERS, GAME COMMISSION OFFICES AND ONLINE.

QUESTIONS ABOUT LICENSES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE LICENSE DIVISION AT 717-787-2084.

Licenses

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| Resident Junior Hunting (Ages 12 through 16) | \$6.90 |
| Resident Junior Furtaker (Ages 12 through 16) | \$6.90 |
| Resident Junior Combination (Ages 12 through 16) | \$9.90 |
| Resident Landowner Hunting (Ages 12 & older) | \$4.90 |
| Resident Adult Hunting (Ages 17 and older) | \$20.90 |
| Resident Adult Furtaker (Ages 17 and older) | \$20.90 |
| Resident Senior Hunting (Ages 65 & older) | \$13.90 |
| Resident Senior Lifetime Hunting (Ages 65 & older) | \$51.90 |
| (Must be renewed each license year) | |
| Resident Senior Lifetime Combo (Ages 65 & older) | \$101.90 |
| (Must be renewed each license year) | |
| Resident Senior Lifetime Combo Upgrade | \$51.90 |
| (Must be renewed each license year) | |
| Resident Senior Furtaker (Ages 65 & older) | \$13.90 |
| Resident Senior Lifetime Furtaker (Age 65 & older) | \$51.90 |
| (Must be renewed each license year) | |
| Nonresident Adult Hunting (Ages 17 & older) | \$101.90 |
| Nonresident Junior Hunting (Ages 12 through 16) | \$41.90 |
| Nonresident Junior Combination (Ages 12 through 16) | \$51.90 |
| Nonresident Adult Furtaker (Ages 17 & older) | \$81.90 |
| Nonresident Junior Furtaker (Ages 12 through 16) | \$41.90 |
| Nonresident 7-Day Small Game | \$31.90 |
| Mentored Youth Hunting Program Permit | \$2.90 |
| Resident Mentored Adult Hunting Program Permit | \$20.90 |
| Nonresident Mentored Adult Hunting Program Permit | \$101.90 |
| Resident Military Personnel, National Guard, Reserves and POW Hunting Licenses | \$2.90 |
| (POW not available online; available only from County Treasurer & Game Commission) | |

Add-on Licenses

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| Resident Archery | \$16.90 |
| Nonresident Archery | \$26.90 |
| Resident Muzzleloader * | \$11.90 |
| Nonresident Muzzleloader * | \$21.90 |
| Resident Migratory Game Bird License | \$3.90 |
| Federal Duck Stamp | \$28.40 |
| Nonresident Migratory Game Bird License | \$6.90 |
| Resident Bear License | \$16.90 |
| Nonresident Bear License | \$36.90 |
| Resident Second Spring Gobbler License | \$21.90 |
| Nonresident Second Spring Gobbler License | \$41.90 |
| Resident DMAP Harvest Permits | \$10.90 |
| Nonresident DMAP Harvest Permits | \$35.90 |
| Elk License Drawing (See elk section in this Digest) | \$10.90 |
| Bobcat Permit (See bobcat section in this Digest) | \$6.90 |
| Fisher Permit (See fisher section in this Digest) | \$6.90 |
| River Otter Permit (See otter section in this Digest) | \$6.90 |

Available Only from County Treasurers

(See "Antlerless and Unsold Antlerless Deer License" sections elsewhere in this Digest for additional information)

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| Resident Antlerless Deer License | \$6.90 |
| Resident Unsold Antlerless License | \$6.90 |
| Resident Disabled Veteran Antlerless License | \$6.90 |
| Resident Armed Forces Antlerless License | \$6.90 |
| Nonresident Antlerless License | \$26.90 |
| Nonresident Unsold Antlerless License | \$26.90 |
| Resident Disabled Veteran Hunting License (annual or lifetime, if qualified) | Free |
| Resident Disabled Veteran Furtaker License (annual or lifetime, if qualified) | Free |
| Resident Reduced Disabled Veteran Hunting License | \$2.90 |
| Resident Reduced Disabled Veteran Furtaker License | \$2.90 |

Resident Disabled Lifetime hunting and furtaker licenses can be renewed at any issuing agent, or online.

All combination licenses include hunting, furtaker, archery and muzzleloader privileges. (Bear hunting privileges, antlerless deer license, migratory game bird license and federal duck stamp not included.)

Senior resident hunting and furtaker (annual and lifetime, including combination) licenses are available to those who will be 65 years old by June 30 of the current license year.

Nonresident of Pennsylvania—12 years of age and older. Seven consecutive days and license includes waterfowl, but not valid for coyotes or big game, including turkey. To hunt waterfowl, applicants 16 years old and older need a federal duck stamp and a Migratory Game Bird License.

* Muzzleloader firearms, bows and arrows, and crossbows may be used during the firearms deer hunting seasons without purchasing muzzleloader or archery licenses.

FIREARMS REGULATIONS FOR NON-IMMIGRANT ALIENS

Since the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms has enacted new permit requirements for bringing firearms and ammunition across the U.S. border. Any resident of another country who intends to import a firearm and ammunition into the U.S. for the purpose of hunting or recreational target shooting should contact the ATF's Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch. Provide yourself ample time for the processing of the import permit application. It could take six weeks or more to receive the required permit. The ATF can be contacted at 304-616-4550. Visit the ATF website at <http://www.atf.gov>. An application for the Permit for Importation of Firearms can be found at ATF F6 NIA (5330.3D).