

# Mentored Youth Hunting Program

The **Mentored Youth Hunting Program** is designed to allow youngsters **under 12 years of age** to gain hunting experience and learn at an early age about Pennsylvania's rich hunting heritage. It gives unlicensed youngsters the opportunity to receive one-on-one, hands-on experience and training in the field on ethics, safety, responsibility, enjoyment and all other aspects of the hunting experience by adult mentors who are dedicated to this pursuit. Participating youngsters are not required to take a Hunter-Trapper Education (HTE) class to be eligible for the Mentored Youth Program, however, once they reach their 12th birthday, the mentored youth permit will no longer be valid, and they will be required to successfully complete an HTE course before obtaining a junior license.

## General Information

- A mentor (licensed person 21 years or older) who is serving as a guide to a mentored youth must secure a valid, current hunting license or otherwise qualify for a license and fee exemptions prior to engaging in any mentored youth hunting activities.
- A mentored youth planning to participate in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program must obtain a permit, and each youngster will be issued his or her CID number (each youngster will need a Social Security number to receive a CID number). The \$2.90 permit can be obtained from any issuing agent and online at the Game Commission's "The Outdoor Shop." The Mentored Youth Hunting Program permit includes big game harvest tags for antlered deer and spring turkey. **No big-game harvest tags will be issued to mentored youth applicants who are under 7 years of age at the time of application.** Antlered deer or turkey harvests must be reported within five days by using the harvest report cards found in this digest, online at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov), or by phone by calling 1-855-724-8681. **To hunt doves, mentored youth also need a migratory game bird license.**
- A mentored youth who participates in any hunting party shall count as a member of the hunting party for maximum allowed numbers.

## Species, Seasons & Bag Limits

- A mentored youth can hunt only **squirrels, rabbits (cottontails), doves, woodchucks, coyotes, deer, and turkeys** in any of their respective seasons, and must follow daily and field possession bag limits for each species (one antlered deer and one bearded turkey in the spring, per license year). Mentored youth permit holders may follow the same antler restrictions as junior license holders, which is one antler of three or more inches in length or one antler with at least two points.
- A mentor can transfer **one** valid antlered deer harvest tag to a mentored youth **who was under the age of 7 at the time of application.** The transfer of the antlered deer harvest tag may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the antlered deer, but before tagging the carcass. At that time, the harvest tag is to be transferred to the youngster to complete the tag information and to attach the tag to the ear of the deer. The mentor must report the deer and check the "taken by mentored youth" box on the harvest report card. A mentored youth may not receive by transfer more than **one** antlered deer harvest tag each license year.
- A mentor can transfer one spring turkey harvest tag to a mentored youth **who was under the age of 7 at the time of application.** The transfer of the spring harvest tag may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the spring turkey, but before tagging the carcass. At that time, the harvest tag is to be transferred to the youngster to complete the tag information and to attach the tag to the leg of the bird. The mentor must report the turkey and check the "taken by mentored youth" box on the harvest report card. A mentored youth may not receive by transfer more than **one** spring turkey harvest tag each license year.
- A mentor can transfer one fall turkey tag to a mentored youth if the youngster harvests a fall turkey. The harvest information and tag must be attached to the leg of the bird, and the mentor needs to check the "taken by mentored youth" box on the harvest report card.
- A mentor can transfer **one** valid antlerless deer license and/or **one** Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permit to a mentored youth. Antlerless licenses are valid within the wildlife management unit (WMU) for which they were issued, and DMAP permits are valid on the specific properties for which they were issued. The transfer of the antlerless license and/or DMAP permit may not occur until after the mentored youth has harvested the antlerless deer, but before tagging the carcass. At that time, the license is to be transferred to the mentored youth to complete the tag information and to attach the tag to the ear of the deer. The mentor must report the deer and check the "taken by mentored youth" box on the harvest report card. A mentored youth may not receive by transfer more than **one** antlerless deer license and/or **one** DMAP permit each license year, and is ineligible to make direct application for an antlerless license and/or a DMAP permit.
- A mentored youth is eligible to hunt during any special youth hunting seasons that apply to **eligible** mentored youth hunt species. This includes the Special Antlerless Deer Only Firearms October season for junior and senior license holders.

## Safety

- A mentored youth must be stationary (the state or condition where a person is still, fixed in place or static, indicated by a cessation of all forward, backward or lateral movement, whether in the standing, kneeling, sitting or prone position) and within arm's reach of the mentor at all times while in possession of any lawful hunting device (any firearm or implement that is lawful to be possessed during the current season and used to harvest the particular species) while engaged in hunting or related activities.
- A mentor **may not** accompany more than **one youngster** at any given time while participating in the Mentored Youth Hunting Program. For example, a mentor **cannot** accompany a mentored youth and a licensed junior hunter at the same time. (A supervising adult can accompany any number of junior hunters outside of the Mentored Youth Hunting Program.)
- A mentor and mentored youth may not possess collectively more than one lawful hunting device at any given time while engaged in hunting or related activities. The mentor must carry the lawful device in transit to and from the spot.
- A mentor and mentored youth must be in compliance with fluorescent orange requirements for the species they are hunting.

## Liability

- A mentor is responsible and accountable for all actions of the mentored youth occurring while engaged in hunting or related activities. A mentor who causes or allows a mentored youth to engage in an unlawful act shall be punishable as the principal offender.

# Mentored Adult Hunting Program

The **Mentored Adult Hunting Program** is designed to allow first-time hunters **18 years old and older** who have never held a prior hunting license within this Commonwealth, or another state or nation, to participate and learn about hunting through the experience of a licensed mentor. Mentored adults obtaining a permit through this program would be able to take part in hunting activities without first needing to take the basic Hunter-Trapper Education (HTE) course. The mentored adult hunter must be properly accompanied by a mentor while engaged in all hunting or related activities.

## General Information

- A mentor (licensed person 21 years or older) who is serving as a guide to a mentored adult must secure a valid, current hunting license or otherwise qualify for a license and fee exemptions prior to engaging in any mentored adult hunting activities.
- A mentored adult planning to participate in the Mentored Adult Hunting Program must obtain a permit. Each mentored adult will be issued his or her CID number (each adult will need a Social Security number to receive a CID number). The permit (\$20.90 for residents and \$101.90 for nonresidents) can be obtained from any issuing agent and online at the Game Commission's "The Outdoor Shop." The Mentored Adult Hunting Program permit includes a big game tag for spring gobbler. Turkey harvests must be reported within five days by using the harvest report cards found in this digest, online at [www.pgc.pa.gov](http://www.pgc.pa.gov), or by phone by calling 1-855-724-8681. Mentored adult hunting permits are available for a total of three consecutive, unbroken, license years, after which the mentored adult will be required to successfully complete an HTE course before obtaining an applicable adult hunting license.
- A mentored adult who participates in any hunting party shall count as a member of the hunting party for maximum allowed numbers.

## Species, Seasons & Bag Limits

- A mentored adult can hunt only **squirrels, ruffed grouse, rabbits (cottontails), pheasants, bobwhite quail, hares, porcupines, woodchucks, crows, coyotes, antlerless deer and wild turkeys**. Species must be hunted in any of their respective seasons, and daily and field possession bag limits for each species must be followed.
- A mentor can transfer **one** valid antlerless deer license and/or **one** Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) permit to a mentored adult. Antlerless licenses are valid within the wildlife management unit (WMU) for which they were issued, and DMAP permits are valid on the specific properties for which they were issued. The transfer of the antlerless license and/or DMAP permit may not occur until after the mentored adult has harvested the antlerless deer, but before tagging the carcass. At that time, the license is to be transferred to the mentored adult to complete the tag information and to attach the tag to the ear of the deer. The mentor must report the deer and check the "taken by mentored adult" box on the harvest report card. A mentored adult may not receive by transfer more than **one** antlerless deer license and/or **one** DMAP permit each license year, and is ineligible to make direct application for an antlerless license and/or a DMAP permit.
- A mentor can transfer **one** fall turkey tag to a mentored adult. The transfer of the fall turkey tag may not occur until after the mentored adult has harvested the fall turkey, but before tagging the carcass. At that time, the tag is to be transferred to the mentored adult to complete the tag information and to attach the tag to the leg of the bird. The mentor must report the turkey and check the "taken by mentored adult" box on the harvest report card. A mentored adult may not receive by transfer more than **one** fall turkey tag each license year.

## Safety

- A mentored adult must hunt within eyesight of his or her adult mentor, and at a proximity close enough for verbal instruction and guidance to be easily understood without the aid of electronic communication devices or sound amplification devices.
- A mentor **may not** accompany more than **one mentored adult** at any given time while participating in the Mentored Adult Hunting Program. A mentor **may not** accompany a junior hunter or a mentored youth hunter in addition to a mentored adult.
- A mentor and mentored adult must be in compliance with fluorescent orange requirements for the species they are hunting.

## Liability

- A mentor is responsible and accountable for all actions of the mentored adult while engaged in hunting or related activities. A mentor who causes or allows a mentored adult to engage in an unlawful act shall be punishable as the principal offender.

## JUNIOR HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

### 12- TO 16-YEAR-OLDS OR JUNIOR LICENSE HOLDERS

**Youth Squirrel Season:** Oct. 1-15 (12-16 years old without a license; and junior license holders, who must have successfully completed an HTE course).

**Junior Pheasant Season:**

Oct. 8-15 (12-16 years old without a license; and junior license holders, who must have successfully completed an HTE course)

**Junior Cottontail Rabbit Season:**

Oct. 1-15 (12-16 years old without a license; and junior license holders, who must have successfully completed an HTE course)

**Bear:** Oct. 20-22 in WMUs 2B, 5B, 5C & 5D (junior license holders)

**Deer:** Oct. 20-22 (Antlerless only; junior license holders with required antlerless license; statewide)

**Youth Turkey Hunt:** April 22, 2017 (Spring gobbler; junior license holders with required license; statewide)

**Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days:** (\* Junior License holders 12-15). One shooting day at Middle Creek and Pymatuning to be designated as a youth-only day, in addition to two statewide or duck-zone specific youth waterfowl hunting days held each year.