

14-02-15

CHANGE IN LEARN TO HUNT PARTICIPATION

Current regulations limit participation in Learn-To-Hunt events. No person may participate in more than one species specific outdoor skills activity.

Learn-To-Hunt was put into place as a tool for new hunter training and recruitment. Research indicated that participation in more than one event may be needed to educate and retain new hunters. Since Learn-To-Hunt events have limited participation, their effectiveness as a recruitment tool is hampered.

As a Learn-To-Hunt mentor I have seen young participants whose experiences have been less than favorable. Not all participants are physically or emotionally ready for their first experience. They are there at the insistence of parents or grandparents who are eager to get them started. I have also participated in Learn-To-Hunts, where weather conditions have affected the experience and outcome.

Hunters in training should be allowed to participate in more than one Learn-To-Hunt per species in order to get the training and mentoring they need to successfully be recruited as new hunters.

SOLUTION:

Amend current Learn-To-Hunt regulations to allow individuals, age 15 and under, to participate in more than one species specific event by limiting individuals to one species specific event per year. **NOT TO EXCEED 2 EVENTS PER INDIVIDUAL PRIOR TO AGE 16.**

Be it resolved that the Conservation Congress, at its annual meeting held in Dodge County on April 13, 2015, recommends that the Department Of Natural Resources and the State Legislature effect changes to Learn-To-Hunt regulations which will eliminate the "One and Done" aspect of Learn-To-Hunt. Amending the rules to allow participants 15 and younger a second chance to participate in a species specific Learn-To-Hunt.

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