

Participating in a Learn to Hunt Event – Frequently Asked Questions

Who may participate in the Learn to Hunt Program?

Anyone who is 10 years old or older, who has not previously participated in a Learn to Hunt event for the species being hunted may participate. A hunter may not participate in a Learn to Hunt event if they received an approval authorizing hunting in any prior license year, including a Class B bear license, for the species being pursued in the specific Learn to Hunt event they desire to attend. No hunter education certification is required. We encourage LTH sponsors to focus on adults and families.

Are participants required to have a DNR Customer ID?

Yes, all learn to hunt participants must have a DNR Customer ID. Every customer is assigned a unique DNR Customer Number the first time they purchase a license or approval through the Automated License Issuance System. If a participant does not yet have a DNR Customer ID, they may call 1-888-936-7463 (seven days/week, 7am -10pm) to obtain one.

How many hours of classroom or field experience prior to the hunt are required?

A minimum of 4 hours of classroom and field instruction must be conducted prior to the hunting activity.

Who are mentors and what are their qualifications and responsibilities?

Mentors may be the course instructors or they may be a parent or other adult guardian of the participant. All mentors shall have at least 5 years of hunting experience and must undergo a background check ([Form 4100-217](#)). As seasoned hunters, mentors help their assigned novice hunter with any hunting-related questions or situations that may arise in the field during the actual hunt.

Mentors cannot hunt or handle/carry the firearm used by the participant, unless the firearm jams and the participant requires help getting it in working condition or for other safety reasons.

What is the required ratio of novice hunters to mentors?

During the actual hunt a mentor shall be assigned to no more than one participant at a time. This one mentor to one participant ratio provides the highest level of instruction and greatest safety.

What game animals can be hunted in a Learn to Hunt program?

Pheasant, wild turkey, upland game, waterfowl, deer or bear may be hunted in a Learn to Hunt event. Hunt sponsors should select only one game animal per event.

Learn to Hunt programs can occur outside of the normal hunting season for most game animals, except waterfowl. Waterfowl hunting seasons are controlled by the US Fish and

Wildlife Service, so any Learn to Hunt program involving waterfowl must be held within the federal framework.

Do game animals harvested during the Learn to Hunt event have to be tagged or registered?

Deer and bear must be tagged and registered. Turkeys must be tagged, but registration is optional though a count of the harvested birds must be reported to your local wildlife biologist. The Learn to Hunt sponsor will provide you with necessary tags and registration forms you may need as well as provide you with a location where participants can register their harvested game.

What fees, licenses, permits, or stamps are required?

The Department waives the state license, stamp and application fees for all Department-approved Learn to Hunt events. Learn to Hunt events focusing on migratory birds must be offered within federal framework, using federally mandated bag limits. HIP certification is required for all participants that involve migratory species and a federal waterfowl stamp is required for all hunters 16 years of age and older.

The Learn to Hunt sponsor may not charge participants a course instruction fee that exceeds the cost of course materials, equipment rental, meals and overnight accommodations. Most clubs have not charged their participants any fees.

How are participants selected?

Participants are selected by the organization or club holding the event. Random drawings are often held if there are more applicants than the group can accommodate.