

YOUTH GUN DEER HUNT

October 7 – 8, 2017

The youth deer hunt was made possible through the Deer 2000 and Beyond Project. The hunt is designed to give youth hunters ages 15 and under an opportunity to hunt deer and gain valuable hunting experience at a time when other hunters are not authorized to hunt deer with a firearm. Hunters 15 years of age and under, with or without hunter education certification, are eligible to participate in the youth gun deer hunt with a mentor (see below for details).

YOUTH HUNT RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- Definitions:
 - **Mentored** means guided by an adult at least 18 years of age that has received permission from the hunter's parent/guardian. For hunters younger than 12 and those that have not completed hunter education, the mentor must also be a hunter education graduate and hold a current hunting license.
 - To **accompany** means the adult is within both visual and voice contact of the youth without the aid of a mechanical/electrical amplifying device other than a hearing aid.
- Youth hunters ages 15 and under may hunt deer with a gun, bow or crossbow in all deer management units (DMUs), except state parks and Menominee County. A gun deer hunting license is required.
- Since the archery and crossbow seasons run concurrent with the youth gun deer hunt, youth hunters who possess an archer or crossbow license may also continue to hunt deer with a bow/crossbow.
- Both resident and non-resident youth hunters are eligible to participate.
- The bag limit is one buck with a *Gun Buck Deer Tag* plus additional antlerless deer per *antlerless deer tag(s)* valid for the zone, DMU and land type (public access or private) on which the youth is hunting and additional antlerless deer per *Jr. Antlerless Deer Tag* which is valid statewide on the land type specified on the tag (exception: the Jr. Antlerless Tag may not be valid in certain buck-only counties. See the current Deer Hunting Regulations for details).
- All other hunting regulations apply. See the *2017 Wisconsin Deer Hunting Regulations* for more information.



Megan Mader harvested this terrific buck during the 2013 Wisconsin youth season. Congratulations to Megan on her successful hunt!

For youth hunters 12 – 15 years of age (resident and non-resident) who possess a hunter education certificate of accomplishment and a gun deer hunting license:

- Hunters must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older. The adult does not have to be a licensed hunter or a hunter education graduate to accompany one or two youth who are at least 12 years of age and have completed a hunter education course.
- Adults accompanying youth hunters may not hunt deer with a firearm during the youth hunt, but may possess a bow, crossbow or gun and hunt for a game species that is open for them to hunt at that time, including deer with a bow or crossbow.
- An adult may not accompany more than two youth hunters during the youth gun deer hunt at any given time.

For all youth hunters 11 years of age and under, or youth hunters 12 – 15 years of age who do not possess a hunter education certificate, and who possess a gun deer hunting license:

- Hunters must be “**mentored**” by an adult who is within arm’s reach at all times during the hunt.
- Qualified adult mentors must be at least 18 years of age and have the youth’s parent or guardian’s permission to mentor the youth hunter.
- Mentors must possess a valid Wisconsin hunting license for the current hunting season. Type of hunting license does not matter, unless the mentor will be hunting other game. When hunting on land the mentor owns or occupies, a mentor is exempt from the hunting license requirement if not hunting, or if only hunting rabbits, squirrel, raccoon, fox, coyote, beaver, woodchucks or unprotected species.
- If the mentor was born on or after 01/01/1973, they must be a graduate of a hunter education course or have completed basic training with the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Qualified adult mentors may only mentor one youth hunter whose age is 11 and under, or who has not completed hunter education, at any given time.
- Adults accompanying youth hunters may not hunt deer with a firearm during the youth hunt, but may possess a bow, crossbow or gun and hunt for a game species that is open for them to hunt at that time, including deer with a bow or crossbow.
- Mentors are encouraged to go over the four basic rules of firearm safety with the youth prior to hunting:
 - Treat every gun as if it were loaded;
 - Always point the muzzle in a safe direction;
 - Be sure of your target and beyond; and
 - Keep your finger out of the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.

Additional information can be found on Wisconsin’s mentored hunting program web page (keyword search “mentor”).