

Hunting Licenses

Sportsman Safety Education Requirements

Mandatory Hunter/Bow hunter Education: A [hunter/bow hunter education course](#) is required for persons who cannot show proof that they have ever possessed a hunting/bow hunter license. DEC honors hunter education certificates and sporting licenses from all other states and countries. DEC also honors bow hunter education certificates issued by:

- National Field Archery Association or National Bow hunter Education Foundation or International Bow hunter Education Program issued in 1974 or later in any state or country,
- Any state or provincial fish and wildlife agency (certificate or card must specify the course was for bow hunting and not a general hunting course with a bowhunting segment),
- Ontario Bow hunters Association (on green or brown letterhead stationery with moose head-bow and arrow emblem until July 31, 1987), or
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (on letterhead after August 1, 1987).

Find additional information about [Sportsman Education](#) or look for an [education course](#) offered near you. You can also find information by contacting a [DEC Regional Office](#) or by calling 1-888-HUNT-ED 2 (1-888-4868-332).

Residency

To qualify for a resident license, a person must live in New York State for more than thirty days immediately prior to date of application. Land ownership in New York does not make you a resident. Residency is that place where a person maintains a fixed, permanent and principal home (regardless wherever temporarily located), such as where a person is registered to vote. If under 18, the residence of parents or legal guardian shall be deemed such person's residence.

Active members of the US Armed Forces stationed in NY and full-time college students in residence in the State during the school year (proof required) qualify for annual resident licenses.

Minimum Hunting Age

Minors under the age of 12 may not obtain a hunting license or hunt wildlife.

License Year

Licenses and permits are valid from October 1 through September 30. To hunt in small game or big game seasons starting prior to October 1, the previous year's license is required. Previous year big game licenses are available at all license issuing agents.

License Responsibilities

- A license, permit, tag or stamp (except Deer Management Permits) is not transferrable and may be used only by the person to whom issued.
- It is not legal to possess another person's license, permit or stamp (except a transferred Deer Management Permit) while hunting, unless accompanied by the person to whom issued.
- A license to hunt, trap or fish does not give the holder any right to go on private property without permission of the land owner.
- You can legally purchase and possess only one big game or sportsman license per year.
- It is illegal to refuse to show your license on demand to a law enforcement officer or the owner, lessee or person in control of the lands (or their designees) while on their property.
- Make sure that your license has all the correct information. Carefully check it immediately after purchase or as soon as delivered in the mail. If you discover an error, have it corrected as soon as possible. Errors render a hunting or fishing license invalid.

Back Tags

Must be visibly displayed on the middle of your back while hunting, except in the Northern Zone and Catskill Park.

Resident Hunting Licenses, Permits and Stamps

Your Hunter Ed. Certificate OR Previous Hunting/Trapping/Bow License is required to obtain the following licenses:

Type	Age	Cost	
Conservation Legacy	16-69	\$96.00	Fishing privileges are included in these licenses
Super Sportsman	16-69	\$88.00	
Trapper Super Sportsman	16-69	88.00	
Sportsman	16-69	\$47.00	
Senior Sportsman	70 +	\$10.00	
Small & Big Game	16-69	\$29.00	
Deer Management Permit (DMP)	14+	\$10.00	
<i>(Must apply by October 1, 12+ years can obtain for bow hunting only)</i>			
Military Disabled Sportsman	16+	\$5.00	
<i>(40% or greater service-related military disability documented annually by a letter dated in the current year from the Veteran's Administration – unless letter states "Permanent")</i>			
Bow hunting Privilege	16-69	\$21.00	Must be accompanied by valid big game license
Free Bow Hunting Privilege	70+ or Military Disabled	No Fee	
Muzzle Loading Privilege	14-69	\$21.00	

Free Muzzle loading Privilege	70+ or Military Disabled	No Fee	
Small Game	16-69	\$26.00	} Must apply in person with parent or legal guardian
Junior Bow Hunting	12-15	\$9.00	
Junior Hunting	12-15	\$5.00	
Junior Trapping	under 16	\$6.00	
Turkey Permit	12+	\$10.00	
Trapping	16-69	\$21.00	
Senior Trapping	70+	\$5.00	
SR Military Disabled Trapping	70+	No Fee	

Life Time Resident Sporting Licenses

(combined small game, big game & fishing privileges, also includes turkey permits):

For a person age	0-4	\$380
For a person age	5-11	\$535
For a person age	12-69	\$765
For a person age	70 or older	\$65

Other Lifetime Resident Licenses/Privileges

Small and Big Game Hunting License		\$535
Fishing License	0-69	\$460
Fishing License	70+	\$65
Trapping License		\$395
Bow Hunting		\$235
Muzzle Loading		\$235

For additional information and clarification on Lifetime License Sales, contact the License Sales Unit, NYSDEC, 635 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4790, call 518-402-8843 or visit their website at www.dec.ny.gov

Small Game License Exceptions

All residents must have a valid hunting license in their possession except:

- Resident owners primarily engaged in farming, lessees and members of their immediate families do not need a hunting license when hunting on farm lands they are occupying and cultivating.
- Native Americans living on a reservation do not need a hunting license while hunting on reservation lands.

Turkey Hunting

To hunt turkey, all hunters must purchase a turkey permit. There are no exceptions.

Free Licenses

Free Small/Big Game, Fishing and Trapping licenses are available to NYS residents who have the appropriate Sportsman Education and are **active service members of the NYS Militia, US Reserve Forces or certain members of the US Armed Forces**. For more information click on link <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6094.html>.

Lost Licenses, Permits and Tags

A lost license and permit may be replaced for a fee of \$5 per license type and carcass tag sets may be replaced for a fee of \$10 per set. There is no charge to replace a lost back tag. For example, replacing a turkey permit, sportsman, bow hunting and muzzle loading license will cost \$20 (\$5 x 4 license types) plus \$40 (\$10 x 4 carcass tag sets). Even though there are four carcass tags with your turkey permit, they are considered a set and would cost only \$10 for all four.