



Youth Waterfowl Mentored Hunt

Program Objective & Lottery

RI DEM facilitates mentored hunt programs as an avenue for youth ages 12-15 to gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence necessary to be the next generation of legal, ethical hunters. All DEM youth-mentored hunting opportunities strive to create positive hunting experiences for youth and their families while teaching the importance of sustainability, firearm safety, conservation, and outdoor ethics. In addition, the Youth Waterfowl Mentored Hunt prioritizes youth who are new to hunting, may not have an existing family or social support system to help them learn to hunt, or may have hunting experience but have never successfully harvested the target species of the mentored hunt.

The Rhode Island DEM Division of Fish and Wildlife Youth Waterfowl Training and Mentored Hunt participants will be randomly picked through a lottery based on the following:

- An unbiased online random number generator will be used to determine the selected participants of the lottery for the hunt invitations.
- During the drawing, a minimum of 2 staff members will be present.
- The total number of youth hunters for the hunt will be based on the number of mentor teams that are available.
- Applicants will be numbered by the date the application was received by DEM.
- Bonus points will be allocated to help reach the program objective. All information is collected and self-reported by the program participant or guardian, via their completion of the online application. Each bonus point accumulated gives the individual an additional chance in the drawing. Bonus points are accumulated as follows:
 - 1 point for applicants who have never hunted before.
 - 1 point for applicants who have never harvested waterfowl before.
 - 1 point for applicants who are new to the program.
 - 1 point for applicants who are new to the program and will age out of the program in the current year.
 - 1 point for applicants who are new to the program and have previously applied but have not been selected.
- A second drawing for alternate spots will be conducted using the random number generator. The alternates will be placed on a waiting list, in the order the names were drawn.
- All applicants will be contacted and notified of the application status. Those not selected will be encouraged to apply for future youth mentored hunts and notified of other opportunities and programs.